

Resource Management Plan **BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM**

REPORT – Volume 4 of 5

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WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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- Blyde Adventure Camp: African Paddling Association;
- Blyde Adventure Centre;
- Blyde River Canyon Lodge;
- Department of Water and Sanitation;
- Kruger 2 Canyon;
- Mahubahuba a Bokone CPA;
- Maorabjang CPA;
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- Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency;
- Safari Synthesis;
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- Setlhare CPA;
- Swadini Forever Resorts;
- Thaba Chweu Local Municipality; and
- Thaba Tsweni Lodge and Safari.

Acknowledgement is also extended to all other Stakeholders who attended and participated in the Stakeholder engagements.

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Review Period	Month	Year				
Annual Review of Business Plan	December	2018 ¹	2019	2020	2021	2022
Five (5) Yearly Review of RMP	December	2022				

¹ The implementation of the RMP and BP requires a year budget planning prior to operationalisation.

AMENDMENTS PAGE

Revision No	Description	Date
1	Draft RMP for DWS Review	10/07/2015
2	Draft RMP for DWS Review	14/08/2015
3	Draft RMP for DWS Review	12/10/2015
4	Draft RMP for DWS Review	02/12/2015
5	Draft RMP for Public Review	21/01/2016
6	Final Draft RMP for DWS Review	07/06/2016
7	Final RMP for DWS Approval	25/08/2016
8	Final RMP for DWS Approval	30/11/2016
9	Final RMP for DWS Approval	14/11/2016
10	Final RMP for DWS Approval	14/12/2016

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADU	Animal Demography Unit
AtoN	Aid (s) to Navigation
BCNR	Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve
BID	Background Information Document
BP	Business Plan
CATHSSETA	Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality, Sports Sector, Education and Training Authority
CD: IO MANCO	Chief Director: Infrastructure Operations Management Committee
CHL-A	Chlorophyll A
CIWSP	Cooperative Inland Waterways Safety Programme
CMC	Co-Management Committee
COGTA	Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
CPA	Communal Property Association
CPSI	Centre for Public Service Innovation
DAFF	Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DHS	Department of Human Settlement
DMC	Dam Management Committee
DoT	Department of Transport
DPW	Department of Public Works
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
DSR	Department of Sports and Recreation
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
ECC	Effective Carrying Capacity
EDM	Ehlanzeni District Municipality
EMF	Environmental Management Framework
GG	Government Gazette
GIAMA	Government Immovable Asset Management Act
GP	Guideline Programme
GPS	Global Positioning System
GWWs	Government Waterworks
I& APs	Interested and Affected Parties
IA	Implementing Agency
IALA	International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities
IDC	Industrial Development Corporation
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IEE	Integrated Environmental Engineering
IRMP	Integrated Resource Management Plan
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IZTMP	Integrated Zoning and Tourism Master Plan
K2C	Kruger 2 Canyon
KPAs	Key Performance Areas
LAAP	Local Accountable Aton Parties
LED	Local Economic Development
MAP	Mean Annual Precipitation
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MTPA	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
NDT	National Department of Tourism

NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NPSC	National Project Steering Committee
NT	National Treasury
NWA	National Water Act
NWRI	National Water Resource Infrastructure
OMC	Operations Management Committee
PCC	Physical Carrying Capacity
PH	Potential Hydrogen
PP	Public Participation
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSP	Professional Service Provider
QDS	Quarter Degree Square
RCC	Real Carrying Capacity
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RWU	Recreational Water Use
SAMSA	South African Maritime Safety Authority
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SAPS	South African Police Services
SASCOC	South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SRSA	Sports and Recreation of South Africa
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, Opportunities
TCLM	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWQR	Target Water Quality Range
UPN	Unique Positioning Number
WfW	Working for Water
WRC	Water Research Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mandate: The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), through the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), is mandated to protect aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity. The Minister of Water and Sanitation, as the custodian of the nation's water resources must ensure that the Government Waterworks (GWWs), including Blyderivierspoort Dam, are protected, used, developed, managed and controlled in a sustainable manner, for the benefit of all. To assist the Minister in attaining the mandate, and to ensure that access to, and use of, the dam is equitable, the DWS initiated and commissioned the development of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Blyderivierspoort Dam.

Purpose of the RMP: The RMP is a plan which aims to regulate access and the recreational utilisation of a water resource and the surrounding state land, in ways which promote community participation and beneficiation, environmental conservation and unlock socio-economic potential of the water resource.

According to DWAF (2006), the use and management of the GWWs for recreation purpose needs to be based on Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) included within the RMP within the RMP.

Location of the dam: Blyderivierspoort Dam is a gravity and arch type of dam which impounds Blyde River. It falls under Wards 8 within the jurisdiction of the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality (TCLM), which forms part of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. Its GPS coordinates are: **24°32'49.09"S 30°48'14.78"E**.

Purpose of the dam: The primary purpose of Blyderivierspoort Dam is to provide raw water for irrigation, industrial and domestic use.

The dam also currently offers only 'interpretation boat' trips as a recreational activity. Due to the presence of Hippopotamus and Crocodiles at the dam, recreational

activities such as fishing, swimming and kayaking are prohibited.

Although fishing is not allowed, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) annually hosts a competition at the dam to remove Trout and Bass fish. This competition is a way of controlling Alien Fish Species in the dam.

Dam ownership and management: Blyderivierspoort Dam is owned and operated by the DWS. There is only one (1) access to the dam through the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve (BCNR) and it is controlled by security guard personnel. MTPA is currently managing the dam for recreational purposes. This RMP proposes an improvement on the current institutional structure to include other relevant role players to assist in effectively managing the dam for recreational purposes.

Stakeholder engagement: The success of the development and implementation of the RMP depends on the role players and their level of participation. It is thus recognized that different roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders [Authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)], their relationship towards each other and the steps in the planning procedure are imperative in the successful development of the RMP. As such, proper consultation with the public was done in order to help in producing a credible RMP.

DWAF's Guidelines for Public Participation (2001) outlines three (3) broad phases for public participation namely the **Planning, Participation and Exit phase**.

During the **Planning phase** a site inspection was conducted and literature reviewed in order to gather baseline information about the dam. A process was also established to get into contact with the I&APs and relevant authorities to ensure co-operative interests and support in the RMP project.

The **Participation phase** entailed three (3) important aspects, namely:

- Informing stakeholders about the RMP project;
- Meeting the stakeholders to present the RMP process; and
- Giving Feedback in the form of meeting minutes, follow-up emails, telephonic and direct communication.

During the **Exit phase**, a draft RMP was presented to the stakeholders for comment and inputs. The Exit phase entailed two (2) important aspects, namely:

- Ensuring that all goals, challenges, concerns, objectives and the vision of the dam are identified and documented in the RMP; and
- Officially ending the public participation process.

Identified objectives and vision: During the Authority and Public Meetings issues of concerns were raised from which common objectives were identified and a vision for the dam, for a period of 20 years, were formulated by the stakeholders.

The identified key common objectives are:

- To conserve and utilize the dam in a sustainable manner;
- To oversee the whole of the dam in the lower canyon recreationally marketed as it has a high ecotourism potential;
- To ensure safety in all aspects regarding access and the utilization of the resource and associated recreational infrastructure;
- To improve safety of navigation through the implementation of standardised and harmonised AtoN and demarcation markers as directed by SAMSA;

- To uplift communities through employment empowerment (e.g. skippers), as well as social and educational programmes (e.g. environmental education); and
- To see job opportunities emanate from any recreational developments at the dam.

A vision for the dam, for a period of 20 years, was formulated by stakeholders to be as follows:

“To ensure conservation and integrity of the dam and its surrounding area to become the ultimate tourist destination as it is located in a unique scenic tranquil place and to unlock its socio-economic potential”.

The aforementioned objectives and vision are aimed at supporting the attainment of DWS’s vision, mission and objectives.

Tourism Potential: The following were identified as some of the potential recreational developments at the Blyderivierspoort Dam that could enhance tourist attraction:

- Development of a cable car to increase the number of visitors to the dam;
- Developments of accommodation lodges in the vicinity of the dam;
- Re-Establishment of the Blyde River Canyon Hiking Trail as it is a huge tourist attraction;
- Introduction of commercial and cruise boating; and
- Establishment of a floating restaurant on the dam.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM

The dam is an Arch-Gravity type and is located near a small town of Hoedspruit, Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. It is situated within Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve (BCNR) in the Blyde Canyon and the edge of the Drakensburg escarpment. The dam falls under the jurisdiction of Thaba Chweu Local Municipality (TCLM) within Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) and is on Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinate's **24°32'49.09"South 30°48'14.78"East.**

The construction of the dam was completed in 1975 and the first spillway overflow occurred in 1976. The dam is owned and operated by DWS. Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) manages the dam for all recreational activities.

The Ohrigstad and Blyde Rivers confluence to form the dam. The dam was established with the purpose of stabilising the supply of water to irrigators in the Blyde River Irrigation District while, at the same time, increasing the quantity of water available for the rapidly expanding mining and industrial complex (Foskor and Sasol Nitro) at Phalaborwa.

The dam is the largest impoundment on the Blyde River and regulates flows in the lower reaches. Several small farm dams in the upper reaches of the Blyde and Ohrigstad Rivers trap water for domestic purposes and for limited areas of commercial irrigation, as well as livestock watering.

In addition to the dam's primary function of water provision, it also offers the use of water for recreational activities. The water-based recreation currently taking place at the dam includes the Interpretation Boat Trip/ Cruise as illustrated in **Figure 1**. However there are some prohibited water activities such as: swimming,

fishing, canoeing and kayaking as shown in **Figure 2**.



Figure 1: Allowed water activity at Blyderiverspoort Dam



Figure 2: Prohibited water and land based activities at Blyderiverspoort Dam

See **Figure 3** for the Blyderiverspoort Dam Locality Map. The study focus area for the RMP includes the State Land (Purchased Boundary) that was expropriated for the construction and the management of the dam, as illustrated on the purchased boundary map in **Figure 4**.

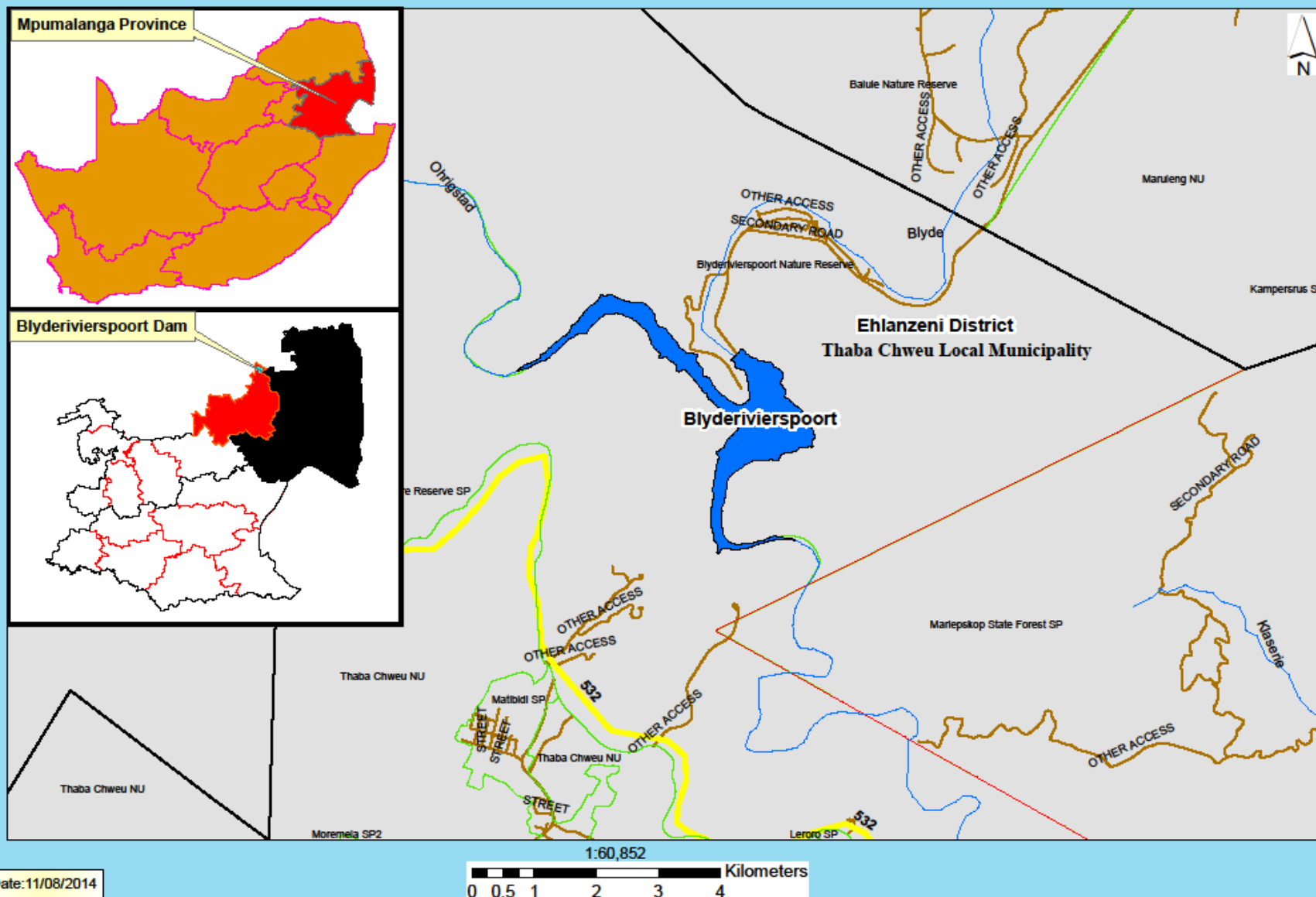
The dam has become a major tourist attraction for its scenic view of the three (3) Roundavels and the Kadishi Tufa waterfall etc. it also forms part of the attractive view of the BCNR. The dam profile is summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Blyderivierspoort Dam Profile

Blyderivierspoort Dam Profile	
Location	South Africa
Province	Mpumalanga
District Municipality	Ehlanzeni District Municipality
Local Municipality	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality
Nearest Town	Hoedspruit
Completion Year	1975
Co-Ordinates	24°32'49.09"S; 30°48'14.78"E
Purpose	Irrigation, Industrial and Domestic Use
Owner	DWS
Water Management Area	Olifant's Catchment Area
Quaternary Catchment	B60D and B60H
Catchment Area (km²)	2 165
River	Blyde River
Capacity (m³)	54 050 000
Surface Area (ha)	240
Wall type	Gravity & Arch
Wall Height (m)	71
Length (m)	240

Source: Department of Water Affairs (List of registered dams; March 2013)

Locality: Blyderivierspoort Dam



Date: 11/08/2014

Figure 3: Locality Map for Blyderivierspoort Dam

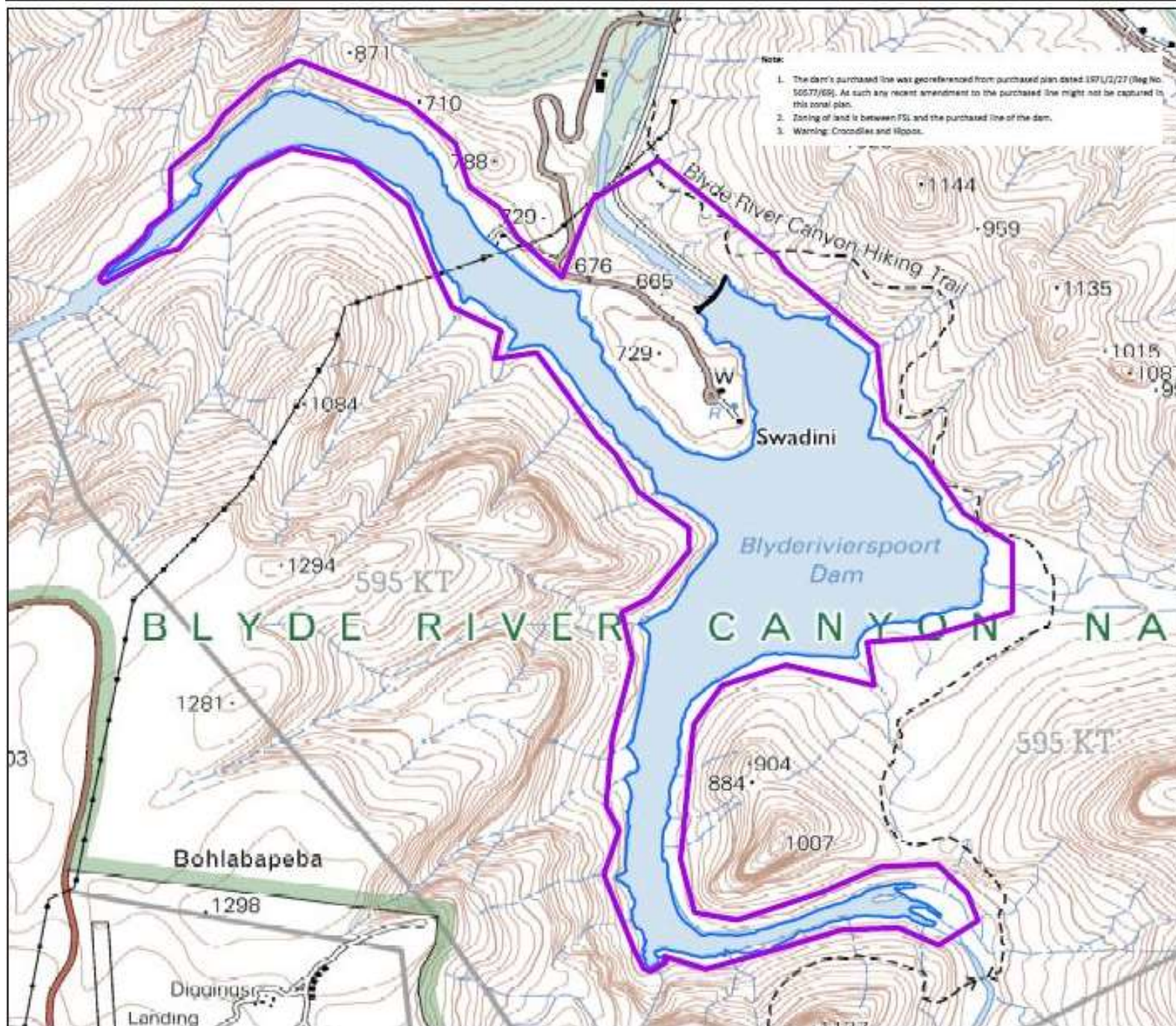


Figure 4: Purchased Boundary Map for Blyderivierspoort Dam

1.2. BIOPHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1.2.1 Climate

1.2.1.1. Temperature

The average daily temperatures for Swadini where the dam is located, ranges between 17.7°C and 26.1°C (MTPA, 2013). Swadini weather is moderate (neither hot nor cold) and provides an opportunity to a variety of activities. The weather is open to activities such as boat cruise and camping.

1.2.1.2. Rainfall

The dam is situated in a summer rainfall area of South Africa. Swadini is situated below the Drakensburg escarpment in the north of the Nature Reserve, and receives 605 mm of rain annually (MTPA, 2013). According to SANBI (2013), the Mean Annual Precipitation (MAP) is about 500 – 800 mm.

1.2.1. Flora

According to SANBI (2013), the vegetation is described as open to dense woody layer, with associated woody and herbaceous shrubs and closed to open layer grass. See **Figure 5** that illustrates the *Aloe molesta* that was identified during the site inspection along the dam wall. **Figure 6** shows *Ficus abutilifolia* that was also identified along the water surface. Also (See attached **Figure 7** for a **Land Cover Map**, Illustrating the vegetation classification that exist around the dam and how it spreads out).



Figure 5 : Aloe molesta



Figure 6: Ficus abutilifolia

Land Cover: Blyderivierspoort Dam



Figure 7: Land Cover Map for Blyderivierspoort Dam

See **Figure 8** illustrating *Opuntia ficus indica* observed during the site inspection.



Figure 8: *Opuntia ficus indica*

1.2.2. Fauna

According to MTPA (2013), a natural population of Hippo (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) occurred in the area of confluence of the Blyde and Ohrigstad Rivers, prior to the building of the Blyderivierspoort Dam. This population is still present and is commonly observed at the Hippo Valley inlet area to the dam, as well as in the Blyde River downstream of the dam wall. See **Figure 9** showing the Hippos that were observed during the interpretation boat trip during the site inspection.



Figure 9: Hippos spotted during Boat Trip

Other Mammals that could be found within the 2430db Quarter Degree Square (QDS) as per the Animal Demography Unit (ADM), 2015, includes:

Table 2: Mammals within the 2430db Quarter Degree Square

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status
<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	Klipspringer	Least Concern
<i>Tailegaphus scriptus</i>	Bushbuck	Least Concern
<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Bush Duiker	Least Concern
<i>mitis</i>	Vervet Monkey	Least Concern
<i>Cloeotis percivali</i>	Percival's short-eared Trident Bat	Critically endangered
<i>Smutsia temminckii</i>	Ground Pangolin	Vulnerable
<i>Pipistrellus rutilus</i>	Rusty	Near Threatened
<i>Papio ursina</i>	Chacma Baboon	Least Concern
<i>Pronolagus ruperstris</i>	Smith's Red Rock Hare	Least Concern

Cormorant Birds were observed inhabiting on the water surface of the dam during a site visit, as illustrated by **Figure 10**.



Figure 10: Cormorant Birds

An African Rock Python was observed during the site inspection as illustrated by **Figure 11** and refer to **Figure 12** for the Nile crocodile species that populates the dam.



Figure 11: African Rock Python



Figure 12: Nile Crocodile

A Rock Monitor was spotted during a boat trip on a rock within the dam basking in the sun. See **Figure 13** of the Rock Monitor.



Figure 13: Rock Monitor

Other Reptiles that could be found within the 2430db Quarter Degree Square as per the ADU, 2015, includes:

Table 3: Reptiles within 2430db QDS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status
<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	Nile Crocodile	Vulnerable
<i>Dendroapsis polylepis</i>	Black Mamba	Least Concern
<i>Naja mossambica</i>	Mozambique Spitting Cobra	Least Concern
<i>Afroedura maripi</i>	Marieskop Flat Gecko	Not Listed
<i>Afroedura rondavelica</i>	Blyde River Flat Gecko	Not Listed
<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	Water Monitor	Least Concern

According to MTPA (2013), three (3) Alien Fish Species also occur in the dam and around the Nature Reserve, namely: Smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). The Rainbow Trout's natural distribution is along the pacific coast of North America, but was introduced in the BCNR due to its importance as an aquaculture species.

The other alien species worth mentioning are the Barred minnow (*Opsaridium zambezense*) and the Treur River Barb (*Barbus treurenensis*), Treur River Barb is a vulnerable species as it is

predated upon by fish species such as the alien species Rainbow Trout (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*), (MTPA, 2013).

1.2.3. Topography

Moderate to steep slopes on mountainsides and sometimes deeply incised valleys, also fairly flat terrain in few places (SANBI, 2006). The most striking topographical features of the dam are the Blyde River Canyon and the Escarpment (MTPA, 2013). The landscape features surrounding the dam is of steep gradient. The steepness is on the edges of the dam which facilitates difficulty in accessing the water surface from any point, (See attached **Figure 14 for Elevation Map**, illustrating the topographical features and different elevations around the dam).

Elevation:Blyderivierspoort Dam

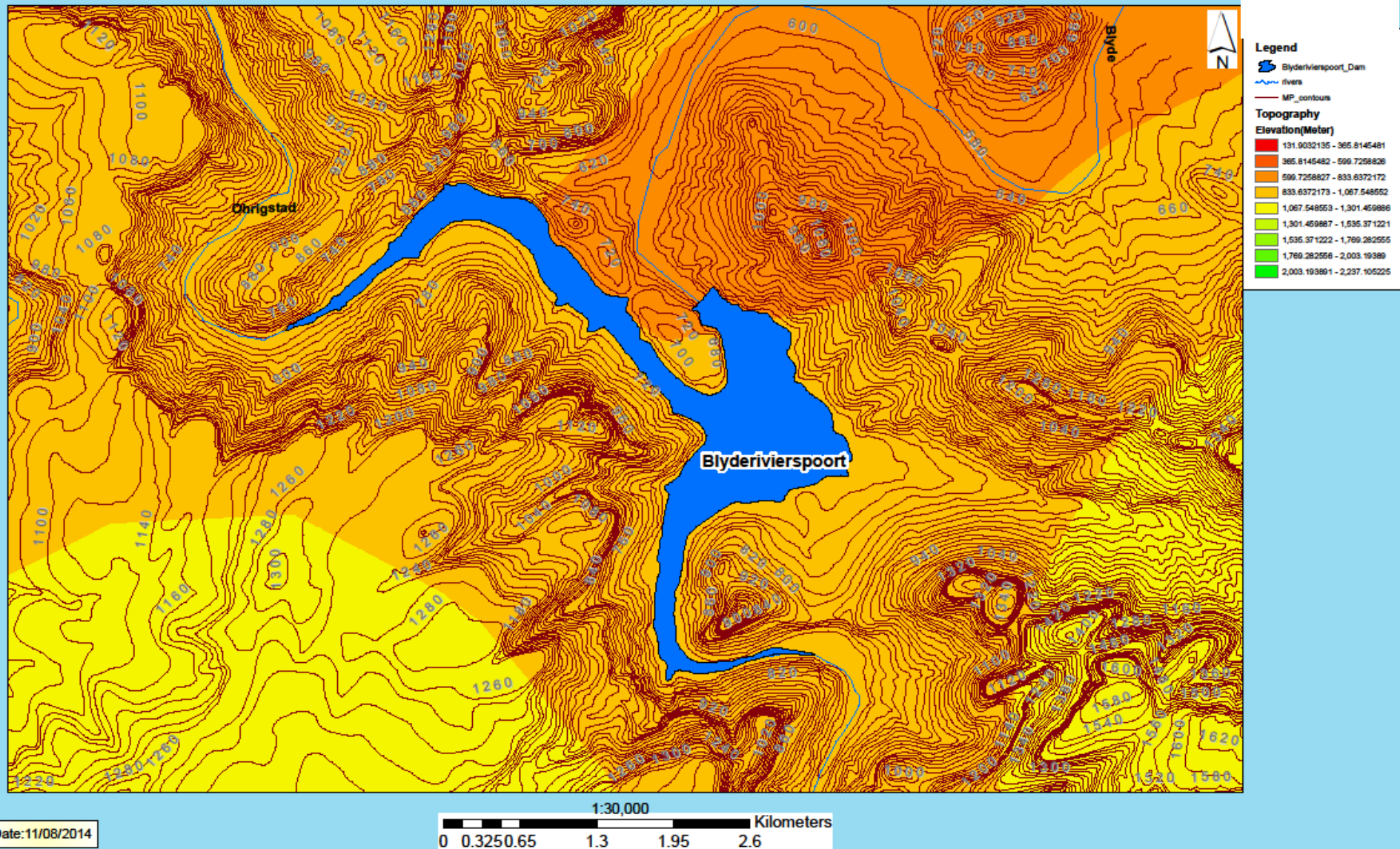


Figure 14: Elevation Map for Blyderivierspoort Dam

1.2.4. Geology and Soils

Primarily on quartzite and shale with some chemical sediments of the Chuniespoort group, weathering to shallow rocky soils of either Glenrosa or mispah (SANBI, 2006). The three (3) Roundavels and the Tufa Water fall are amongst other geological features that can be seen during the boat trip on the dam as illustrated by **Figure 15 & 16**.



Figure 15: The three (3) Roundavels



Figure 16: Tufa Waterfall

The soil patterns of the area are very complex being a result of the topography and the weathering of the different geological substrate types. Acidic/leached soil patterns are, however, commonly observed, specifically related to the underlying quartzite rock type. The deepest and most fertile soils occur where dolomite geological rock formations exist (MTPA, 2013),

(See **Figure 17** for a **Geological Map** illustrating geological features of the dam).

1.2.5. Hydrology

According to DWA (2013), list of registered dams, the dam falls within the Olifants Water Management Area (See **Figure 18** for **Hydrological Map**, illustrating hydrological features of the dam).

1.2.6.1. Rivers

According to MTPA (2013), “Blyde River flows through the BCNR for a distance of 26km and the Ohrigstad River flows through the Nature Reserve for a distance of 11km. These two (2) Rivers join together to form the Blyderivierspoort Dam. The Blyde River provides water for large scale irrigation in Hoedspruit”.

Blyde River is a major contributor to the Olifants River in terms of volume and quality. It also contributes 65% of the fish diversity in the Biosphere Reserve. A population of Smallmouth bass fish (found in good water quality) is abundant in the Blyde River (Kruger2Canyon.com\hydrology 2014).

1.2.6.2. Water Level

Since the first spillage of the dam in 1976, the lowest water level was recorded during December, 1992 when the dam was 28.6% full (MTPA, 2013). According to (Seago *et al*, 2007) it is clearly visible on the Blyderivierspoort Dam’s historical records that the dam spills water for most of the year. (See **Figure 19** for the **full storage capacity of the dam**).

Geology:Blyderivierspoort Dam

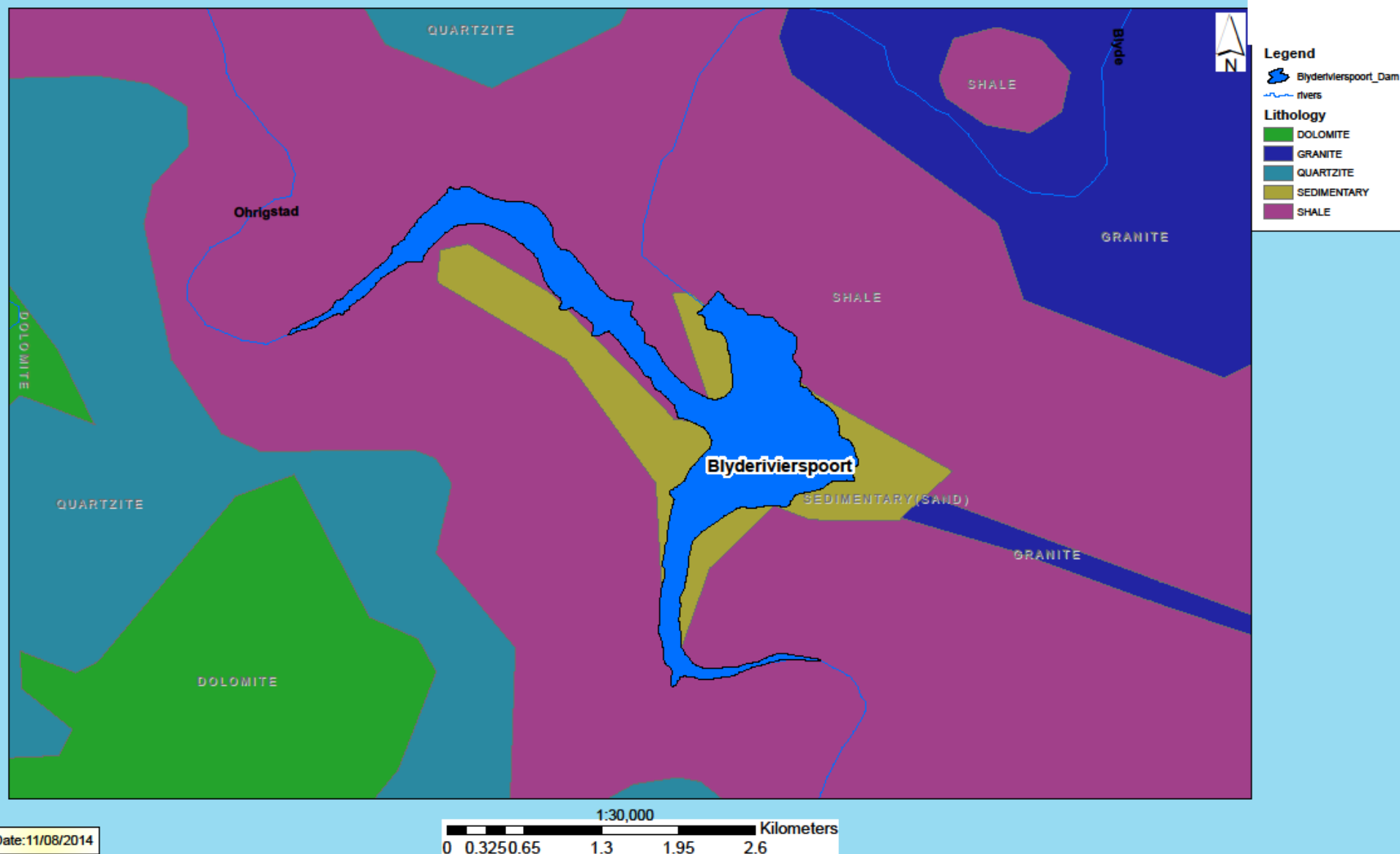


Figure 17: Geology Map for Blyderivierspoort Dam

Hydrology:Blyderivierspoort Dam

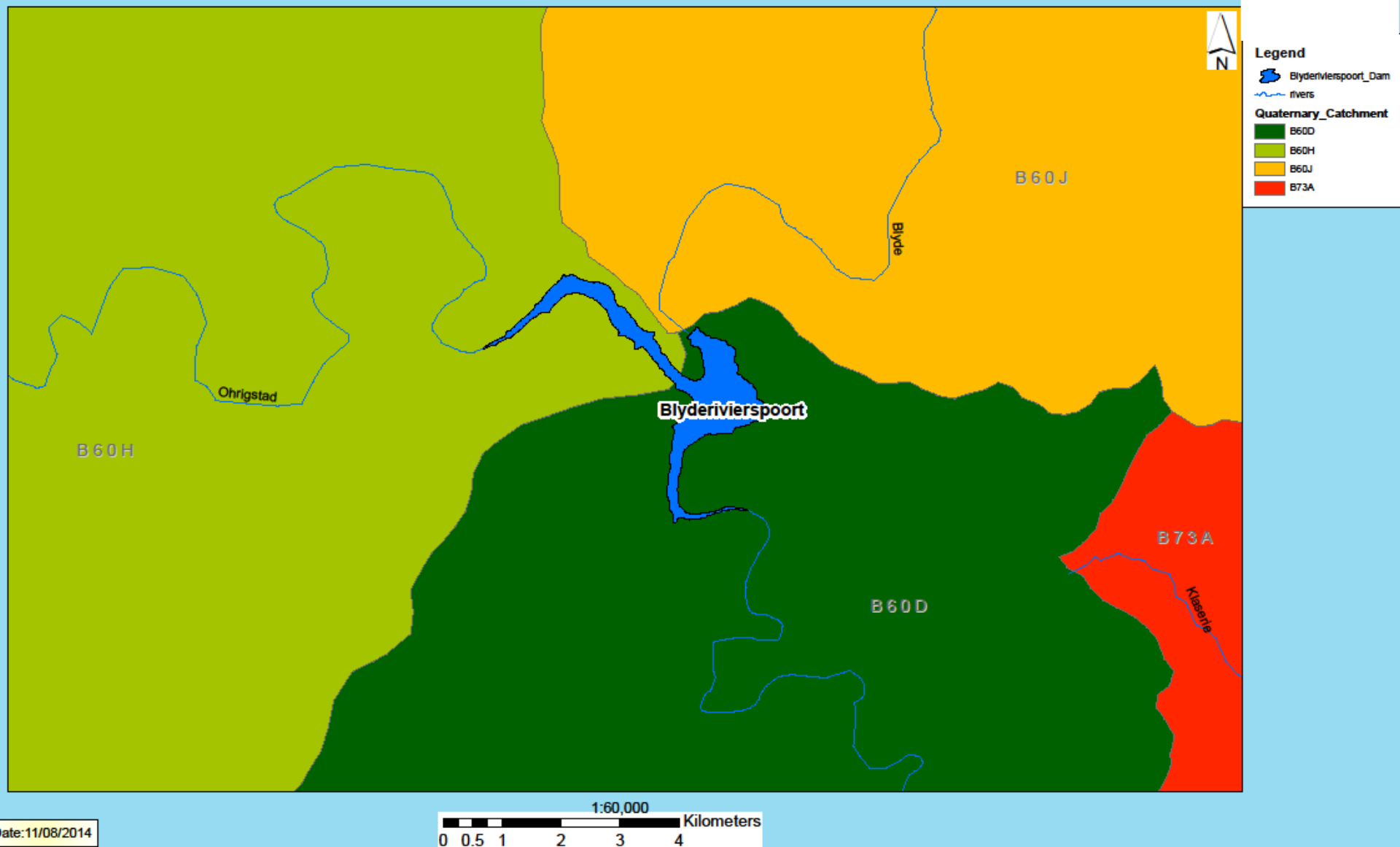


Figure 18: Hydrology Map for Blyderivierspoort Dam

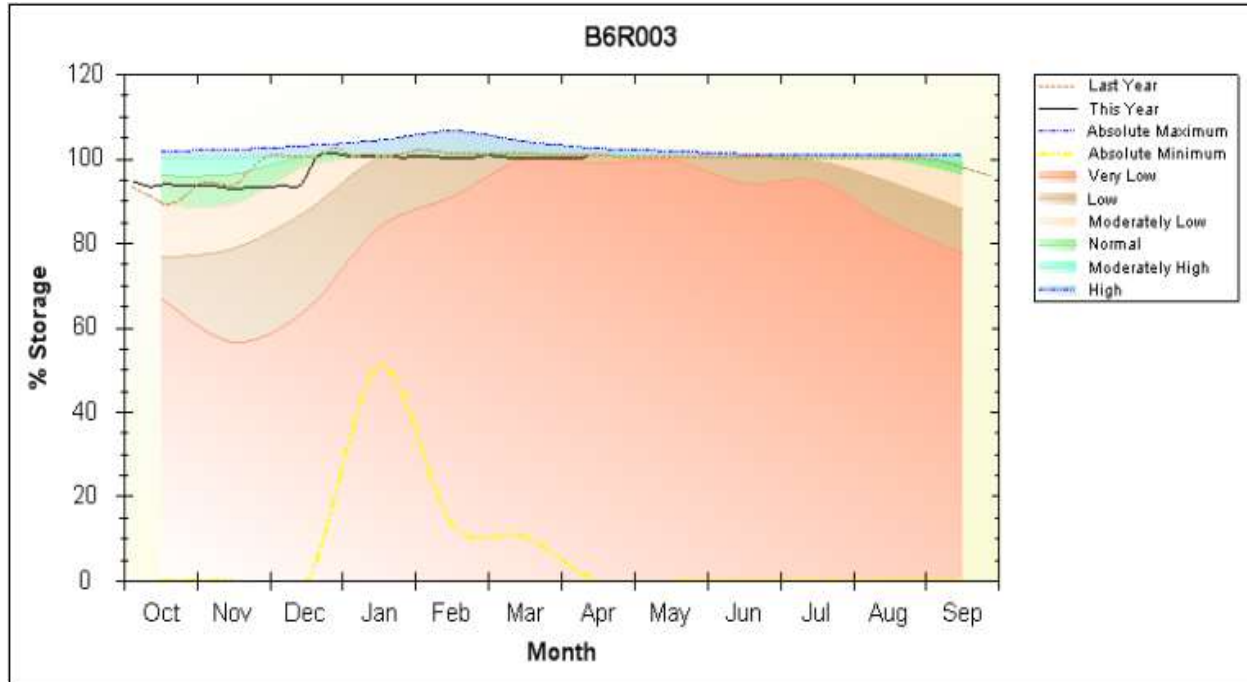


Figure 19: Full Storage Supply for Blyderivierspoort Dam (DWS website, 2014)

1.2.6.3. Water Quality

The term water quality refers to the physical, chemical and microbiological properties of water that determines its fitness for use (WRC, 1998). According to WRC (1998), “In nature, water rarely occurs in its pure form and normally contains a variety of substances. People generally have their own feeling for what “good” or “bad” quality water is, without giving it much thought.

According to WRC (1998), “If water does not look clean, people think it is bad. On the other hand, clear water is not always safe. This means that good quality water sources are sometimes rejected while bad quality sources are accepted”.

The dam impounds the Blyde River which is considered to be a few of ‘A’ rivers in the

country, which means it is considered to be close to a ‘pristine’ river. Many substances can be found in water, however only a few of these variables occur in concentrations high enough to be of concerns to recreational use. The most important substances to measure are those that often occur in concentrations high enough to cause health, aesthetic and other problems (WRC, 1998). Recreational water quality is assessed to determine the fitness of water for water-sport activities.

In **Table 4**, the water quality is assessed to determine its fitness for use for water based sports:

NB: The analytic results tabulated in Table 4, were the only ones available, and retrieved from DWS’s Water Quality Management System for the study conducted.

Table 4: Blyderivierspoort Dam Water Quality (DWS Water Quality Management System, 2014)

Parameter	Analytical Results	Water Quality Target Range (Recreational Purposes)	Effects
Algae (g/chl-a)	1.3	0 - 20	Algal scums may be evident at the higher end of the Quality Range but do not impair non-contact use. No health effects should result from rare, accidental exposure
pH (pH units)	8.1	6.5 - 8.5	If the water body is used exclusively for non-contact recreation, the effect of pH on human health is not relevant.
Turbidity (NTU)	1.62	3	Most users will perceive water as suitable for swimming, however swimming at the dam is prohibited due to the presence of hippo and crocodiles. This allows water depth to be judged and possible hazards excluded on the basis of clarity or turbidity measures alone will be visible. Risk of disease transmission by organisms associated with particulate matter is minimal. No adverse effects on aesthetic appreciation. If a water body is used exclusively for non-contact recreation, then water clarity and turbidity should be such that there are minimal adverse impacts on the aesthetic appreciation of the water body.
Phosphate (measured as Inorganic Phosphorus mg/l)	0.01	<5	Oligotrophic conditions; usually moderate levels of species diversity; usually low productivity systems with rapid nutrient cycling; no nuisance growth of aquatic plants or blue-green algae.

Source: Water Quality Standards (Department of Water Affairs, Water Quality Guideline for Recreational Water Use, 1996).

Algae:

The concentration for algae measured as chlorophyll-A will not have any health impact for non-contact recreation.

pH:

The pH for the dam is within the TWQR for recreational use and also suitable for Aquatic ecosystem.

Turbidity:

The turbidity is low but might be associated with a possibility of microbiological pollution associated with turbidity. It will not impact the current recreational activity.

Phosphate:

The phosphate concentration in the dam is low and this results to no nuisance growth of aquatic plants or blue-green algae in the dam.

Based on the interpretation of the water quality results for the dam, the water will not cause effects on the current recreational activity and the dam's aesthetic quality.

1.3. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

1.3.1 Infrastructure

The main infrastructures at the dam includes:

- The Information centre;
- Boat house (in a state of despair)

1.3.2 Transport Network

The dam is located within Ward 8 in the Mpumalanga Province, however it is accessible from the R531 in Limpopo Province.

1.4. LAND OWNERSHIP

1.4.1. Land Claims

According to the Blyde Canyon Integrated Zoning and Tourism Master Plan (MTPA, 2013) a land restitution claim was lodged by then Pilgrim's Rest Development (currently Maorabjang), Moletele, Setlhare, Mahubahuba-A- Bokone Communal Property Association (CPA), in terms of section 10 of the Restitution of Land Rights

Act, 1994 (Act No.22 of 1994), on inter alia the properties forming the BCNR.

The land claim was subsequently awarded to the land claimants in October 2004. An agreement pertaining to the settlement of the land restitution claim was concluded between the claimants and government. A co-management with respect to the above was also signed and a co-management committee was established.

1.4.1.1. Settlement Agreement

According to MTPA (2013), "A Settlement Agreement has been concluded in terms of Section 42 D of the restitution of the Land Rights Act pertaining to land restitution claims lodged on properties forming part of the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve. The restitution of land to the relevant CPA's is governed by the conditions of the relevant Settlement Agreement. Furthermore, it is indicated that the properties shall be co-managed by the Management Authority and the CPA's in terms of applicable Protected Areas Legislation, the Settlement and Co-management Agreement and the Management Plan".

1.4.1.2 Co-Management Committee

According to MTPA (2013), A Co-Management Committee (CMC) has been established between the Management Authority (MTPA) and Land Claimants as per the CMC agreement. The CMC comprises of three (3) representatives of claimants as nominated by the CPA and three (3) representatives designated by MTPA

1.5. USES AND USERS OF THE DAM

The dam is the largest impoundment on the Blyde River and regulates flow in the lower reaches. The main land-uses in the Blyderivierspoort Dam catchment are commercial timber and agriculture irrigation. Some small towns such as Pilgrim's Rest and Hoedspruit also use water from the dam.

The dam provides water to irrigators of the Blyderivierspoort Irrigation Board and Lepelle Northern Water who abstract from the Phalaborwa Barrage (a gated weir structure) and provides water to Phalaborwa town and surrounding mines as well as the Kruger National Park in the form of the Environmental Reserve releases (Seago et al, 2007).

Lepelle Northern Water operates the Barrage and therefore controls water releases for downstream users – the most important being the Environmental Reserve requirement of the Kruger National Park. The Kruger National Park has often expressed its dissatisfaction with the amount of water that they receive and have therefore started to request more releases from Blyderivierspoort Dam (Seago et al, 2007).

The functions of the dam are categorized into two (2) classes namely: Primary and Secondary.

1.4.1. Primary Functions

Defines the main purpose for building the dam.

1.4.1.1 Irrigation

The dam was primarily built for irrigation and industrial uses. Other practical functions have been identified as stabilizing water supply to the irrigators of the Blyde River irrigation district.

1.4.1.2 Industrial

The dam also provides additional water for the rapidly expanding mining and industrial complex (Foskor and Sasol Nitro) in Phalaborwa (Seago et al, 2007).

The water released from the dam travels for approximately 50kms in the Blyde River and a further 53kms in the Olifants River before it reaches the Phalaborwa Barrage (Seago et al, 2007).

1.4.2 Secondary Functions

Represents water based sports that are taking place at the dam.

1.4.2.1 Recreational Use

In addition to the dam's primary purpose for water provision to irrigators, and industrial use, it also offers the use of water for recreational activities. The water based recreation taking place at the dam includes the interpretation boat trip only. There are other water and land-based activities that are prohibited at the dam and surrounding areas and these include:

- Fishing;
- Swimming due to the presence of hippos and crocodiles;
- Kayaking and canoeing etc; and
- Collecting of fire wood around the dam.

Annually a fishing competition is hosted at the dam to remove Trout and Bass fish. These competitions are a way of controlling Alien Fish Species in the dam by MTPA.

1.6. RECREATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

Currently MTPA is officially the only responsible management authority managing the dam for all recreational activities.

There is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the then Minister of DWAF and the Administrator of the Province Transvaal in the Republic of South Africa which came into effect on the **28th of September 1977**. Currently the agreement is under the administration of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and is specifically administered by MTPA.

In terms of the agreement, it was agreed that the administrator would occupy and exercise control over the dam for purposes of public recreation and protection of fauna and flora. DWS is in the process of replacing the old agreements with newer versions.

1.6.1. Management of Water Surface

The management of the surface water in terms of operation of the Dam is done by DWS.

In addition to the DWS, Local Accountable AtoN Parties (LAAP) and other Bodies providing access to Government waterways and watercourses have a responsibility to ensure that the required fixed and/or floating AtoN are provided after obtaining the necessary support from DWS and thereafter the permission by SAMSA.

1.6.2. Access

There's only one (1) access to the dam and it is controlled by security guard personnel. The dam is below the escarpment and surrounded by a steep terrain, making it difficult to access the water surface at any point.

1.7. SAFETY

1.7.1 Safety Navigation

There is currently no adequate, standardized and harmonized fixed and floating aids to Navigation² (Aton) and Demarcation Markers in Place.

1.7.2 Incident Management

There is no specific incident management system in place to ensure that incidents are responded to in a coordinated manner.

1.8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

1.8.1. Social Audit

The main purpose of social audit is to examine the general status of the study area and to determine issues that need to be addressed when developing the RMP in order to overcome potential difficulties in an area. The study area falls within Ward 8 of the TCLM as shown in **Figure 20**. An understanding of socio-economic conditions of Ward 8 can be used at a later stage to determine the impact of a RMP in the area in terms of changed socio-economic conditions.

A social Audit which focused on the population composition of the ward, Education level and employment status was undertaken and is presented in section 1.7.1.1 to 1.7.1.4, respectively.

² A marine Aid to Navigation (AtoN) is defined by the international Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) as "A device or system external to vessels that is designed and operated to

enhance the safe and efficient navigation of vessels and/or vessel traffic".

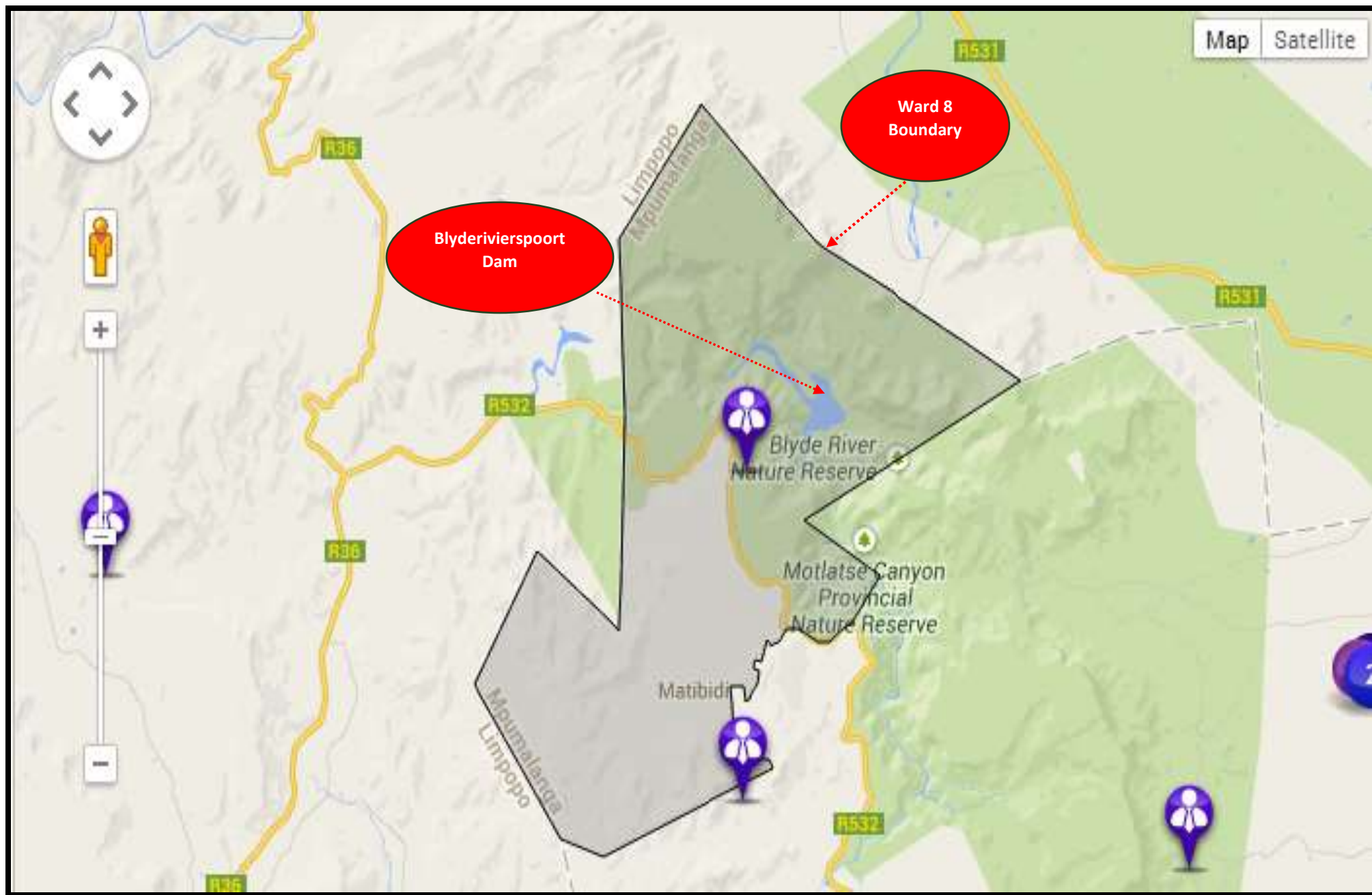


Figure 20: Tlamekeng Ward 8 Boundary (Mobilitate, 2014)

1.6.1.1 Population Dynamics

According to TCLM (IDP 2013/14), blacks/black people are the most dominant race groups within the municipality since 1996, 2001 and 2011, followed by white people. Municipal planning in terms of socio-economic related upliftment programmes and projects must target groups or respond to the race with highest percentage. **Table (5)** and **Figure (21)** illustrates that highest number of race groups residing in ward 8 are blacks/black followed by the white race.

Table 5: Ward 8 Population group (Census, 2011)

Description	Ward 8 (2011)
Black African	7 259
Colored	6
Indian or Asian	9
White	72
Other	21

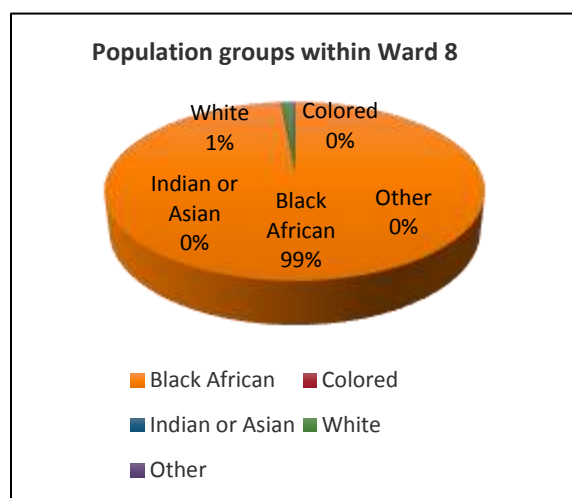


Figure 21: Population groups within Ward 8 (Census, 2011)

1.6.1.2 Ward 8 Employment Status

According to TCLM (IDP 2013/14), the unemployment rate within the municipality was 18.64% in 1996, whereas in 2001 it was at its highest at 25.12% and 20.49% in 2011. In general unemployment rate remains high within TCLM. In order to combat this, the LED strategy must be strengthened. In **Table (6)** and **Figure (22)** the employment status of ward 8 is illustrated. It is

evident that only 12% of the population is of working group. The concern is that 27% of the economically inactive population showing they are no longer seeking for employment. This speaks to the fact that there is large proportions of people within ward 8 who have limited income sources and few hopes that this situation will change in the future.

The direct positive impact that this has on the study area is that there is a large pool of potential labour should tourism development projects that are labour intensive be implemented. It is however unlikely that the unemployed group in this region have the necessary skills to enter the tourism market.

Table 6: Ward 8 Employment status (Census, 2011)

Description	Ward 8 (2011)
Employed	902
Unemployed	1 082
Discouraged work seekers	388
Economically inactive	2 008
Not applicable	3 036

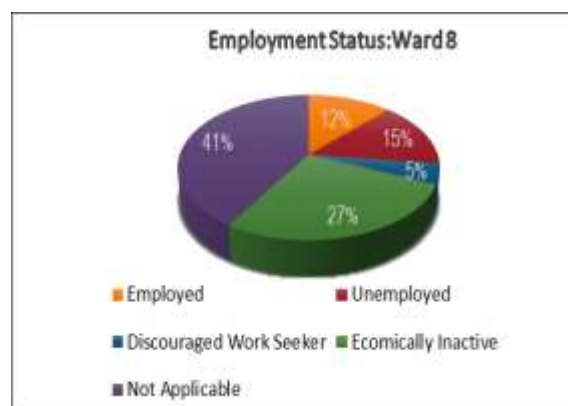


Figure 22: Employment status within Ward 8 (Census, 2011)

1.6.1.3 Educational Levels

According to TCLM (IDP 2013/14), the highest educational attainment in the municipality, the population rate with **no schooling** was at a high percentage in the years 1996 and 2001 where the figures were 22% and 20.69 % which were really bad. In terms of the population with matric only, there was an increase in the years 1996, 2001 and 2011. The rate of the population with tertiary education remained fluctuating, in 1996 the figures were at 7.37%, in 2001 it was 6.05% and 9.38% in 2011.

These figures shows an improvement from the year 2001. TCLM hopes that the proposed university of Mpumalanga will also assist in improving the level of education sector of the municipality. The level of education illustrated in **Table (7)** and the **Figure (23)** shows that in ward 8, most of the population have the secondary schooling. Only 2% of the population has furthered their studies in higher institutions.

Table 7: Educational levels within ward 8 (Census, 2011)

Description	Ward 8 (2011)
No Schooling	671
Primary School (Grade 0 – Grade 7)	2 132
Secondary School (Grade 8 – Grade 12)	3 028
Tertiary	86

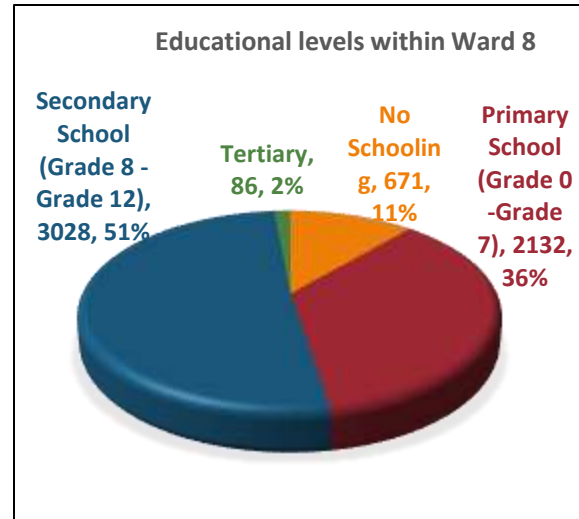


Figure 23: Educational levels within Ward 8 (Census, 2011)

1.8.2. Gross Value Added

According to (TCLM IDP 2013/14), **Figure 24** illustrates employment per industry sector. It has been observed that a large number of employment opportunities come from the mining sector followed by community services and then agriculture. Trade sector also contributes a better percentage in employment. Manufacturing, trade and private household share almost the same percentage in terms of employment whereas finance, utilities and transport contribute the least in absorbing labour.

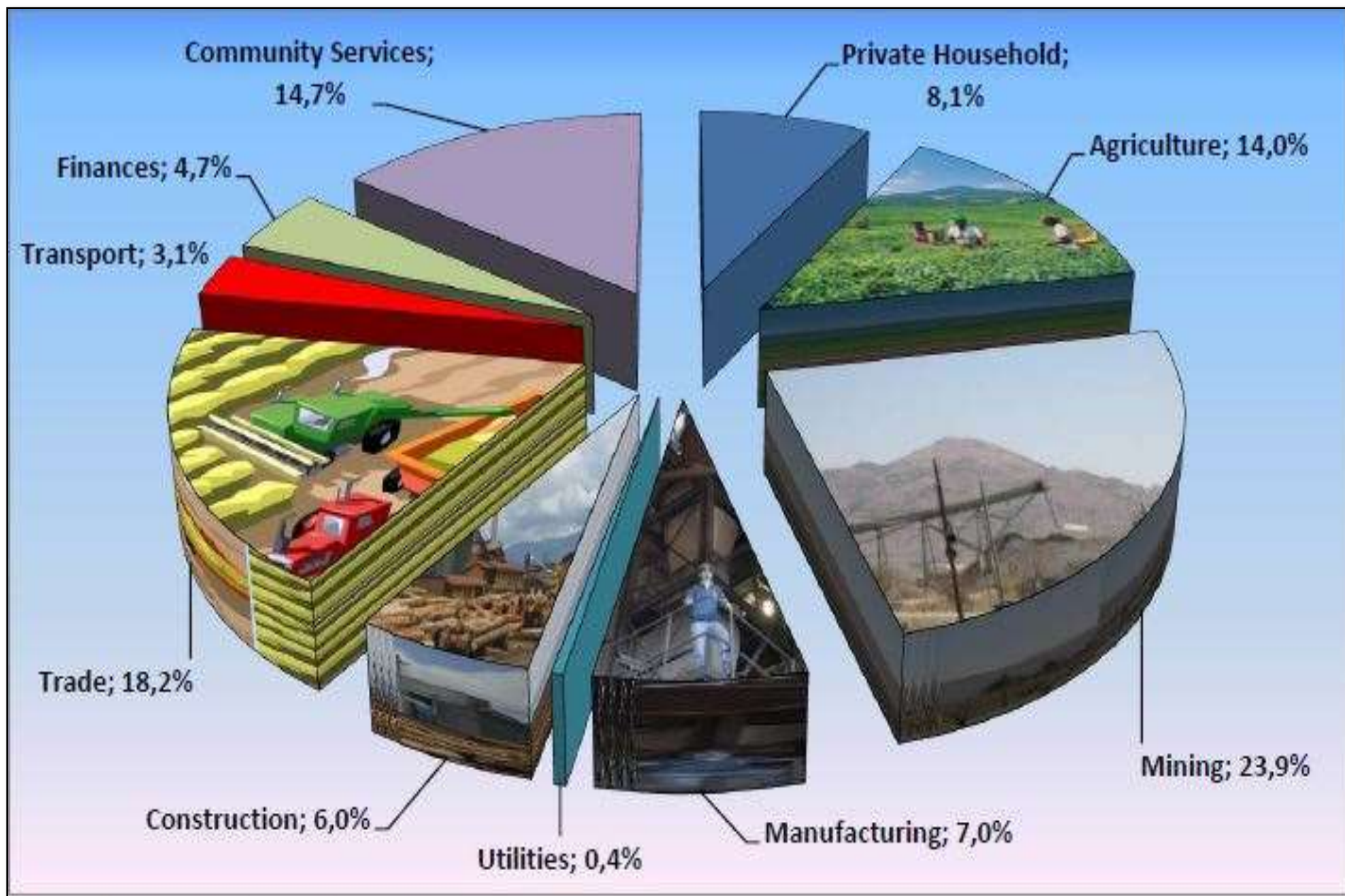


Figure 24: TCM Employment per Industry Sector (TCM IDP, 2013-2014)

1.8.3 Adjacent Communities to the Dam

There are currently no communities near the dam. Communities are outside the Nature Reserve and far from the dam. The steep slopes makes the accessibility to the dam from its location (Mpumalanga) very difficult. The entities that are in the vicinity of the dam include the following:

- Blyde River Canyon Lodge;
- Forever Resorts Swadini;
- Blyde Adventure Center; and
- Kruger 2 Canyon Biosphere Organization.

1.8.3. Community Beneficiation

It is DWS's belief that Local Communities should equally share the benefits emanating from the utilisation of the dam for recreational purposes, by ensuring that they have both physical access to the resource, as well as access to the water-based recreation economy.

According to DWAF (2006), by ensuring that the Local Communities move beyond merely being affected by or living close to a water resource, but rather undertaking the transition to become participants will ensure that water resources can

and will be protected by the people closest to and most affected by the dam.

The community will benefit in amongst others the following ways:

- By having equitable access to the dam;
- The community needs will be addressed in an appropriate and equitable manner;
- By being safe while accessing and using the dam;
- By being given first preference when there are employment opportunities and skills development;
- Through the PPP; and
- By participating in decision-making with respect to major developments planned or proposed for the dam (through the Dam Management Committee).

There is a land claim that was lodged for the BCNR by four communities namely **Maorabjang, Setlhare, Mahubahuba a Bokone and Moletele CPAs**. The claimants will receive a percentage on the net profit generated as per the CMC.

CHAPTER 2: LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The RMP forms the overarching framework for the management of Blyderivierspoort Dam. It is informed by relevant policy, legislation and planning documents administered by other government departments. Similarly, these government departments are required to use the RMP to inform the development of future policy, legislation and planning documents.

- I. **The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), Section 24:** Provides that, everyone has a right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being.
- II. **Conservation of Agricultural Resource Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983):** Provides for control over the utilization of the natural agricultural resources of the Republic in order to promote the conservation of the soil, the water sources and the vegetation and the combating of weeds and invader plants; and for matters connected therewith. Regulation 7 and 8 within the same Act deals with the protection of wetlands and water courses, while regulations 15 and 16 deals with Alien Invasive Plant Species and bush encroachment.
- III. **Consideration on Institutional Arrangement for Managing Use of Water for Recreational Purposes (DWAF, 2003):** It outlines some of the institutional issues at a local level and makes recommendations about the conditions under which different Institution Management arrangements may be considered.
- IV. **General Public Participation Guidelines (DWAF, 2001):** Public Participation refers to the ongoing interaction between Role Players and all stakeholders that is aimed at improving decision making during planning, design,

implementation and evaluation of all projects within the state, this includes the proposed development of the RMP.

- V. **Government Immovable Asset Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 19 of 2007):** To provide for a uniform framework for the management of an immovable asset that is held or used by a national or provincial department; to ensure the coordination of the use of an immovable asset with the service delivery objectives of a national or provincial department; to provide for issuing of guidelines and minimum standards in respect of immovable asset management by a national or provincial department; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.
- VI. **Government Notice R654 dated 1 May 1964, in terms of the Water Act, 1956 (Act No. 54 of 1956):** Regulates access and use of government waterworks for recreational purposes.
- VII. **Guidelines for Compilation of Resource Management Plans (DWAF, 2006):** It directs and guides the development of RMPs by providing insight into the purpose and objectives of these plans, the procedure for its compilation and structure of such documents.
- VIII. **Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations (2007):** These Regulations provide *inter alia* for:
 - Requirements for vessel safety;
 - Crewing requirements and responsibilities;
 - Controlled events such as competitions and regattas; and
 - Responsibilities of authorised agencies (governing

boards/clubs/organisations and regulating authorities).

These Regulations apply to the Department of Water and Sanitation as it is applicable to all inland and sheltered waters and as the Department and its agencies are allowing access to government waterworks for recreational boating vessels.

- IX. Methodology for Carrying Capacity Assessment for the Use of Water for Recreational Purposes (DWAF, 2003):** The carrying capacity of a water resource represents the maximum level of visitor/recreational use and related infrastructure that the water resource and surrounding area can accommodate, without diminishing user satisfaction or adverse impacts upon the local or host community, the economy and culture of the area.
- X. National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998):** NEMA serves as South Africa's Environmental Framework Legislation. It was designed to provide for co-operative and Integrated Environmental Governance by establishing a general framework for decision-making on matters affecting the environment.
- XI. National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) and Related Regulations:** This Act aims to provide the framework, norms and standards for the conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing of South Africa's biological resources.

The Alien and Invasive Species Regulations for this Act came into effect 01 October 2014. NEMBA together with these Regulations aim to prevent the

introduction and spread of alien and invasive species across South Africa.

- XII. National Environmental Management: Protected Area Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003):** The aim of this Act is to provide for the protection and conservation of ecologically viable areas, which are representative of South Africa's Biodiversity, as well as natural landscapes and seascapes.
- XIII. National Treasury Public Private Partnership (PPP) Toolkit for Tourism, 2005:** This toolkit assist the process of development of tourism-based businesses on State-owned Land. The Toolkit make it easier for Institutions and the Private Sector to enter into tourism related partnerships on State Property managed by National and Provincial Government Institutions.
- XIV. National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998):** The purpose of the Act is to ensure that the nation's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled in a sustainable and appropriate manner, for the benefit of all. Furthermore Section 113 of the Act states that the water of a government waterworks and surrounding state owned land may be made available for recreational purposes, subject to controls determined by the Minister and regulations made by the Minister.

Using water for recreational purposes is a water use under Section 21K and can be exercised as permissible use of water under Schedule 1 of the Act. However, this provision does not cater for commercial use hence the RMP should be implemented in line with General Strategic Plan for commercialisation of Tourism Public Private Partnerships at

Government Waterworks, 2009 and PFMA Treasury Regulation 16.

Once the RMP has been approved, the RMP will regulate access and use of the dam. It is important to note that users will need to comply with other relevant legislation.

XV. Operational Policy: Using Water for Recreational Purposes (DWAf, 2004):

This policy is the main guideline in support of the RMP process with regards to the basic principles, policies, strategies and actions for regulating the use of water for recreational purposes.

XVI. Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) (Act No. 29 of 1999):

Section 76 of the Act secures transparency, accountability and sound management of the revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of government departments. The Act promotes the objective of good financial management in order to maximise service delivery. The Act allows DWS to enter into PPP agreements with the private sector for the commercial use of state assets.

XVII. Safety at Sport and Recreational Events Act, 2010 (Act No. 2 of 2010):

Events management is addressed by Safety at Sport and Recreational Events Act (Act No. 2 of 2010). This act deals with ensuring responsibility for safety and security at events. The act deals with among other things,

- Responsibility for safety and security at the events;
- Risk categorization of events; and
- Safety certificates.

XVIII. South African Maritime Safety Authority Act, 1998 (Act No. 5 of 1998):

One of SAMSA's three legislative mandates is "to ensure safety of life and property at sea". The Act enables SAMSA

to administer and execute the relevant maritime legislation.

XIX. Water Services Act (Act No. 108 of 1997): The Act outlines the roles and responsibilities for the supply of water and sanitation to citizens. It also recognises the rights of all humans to basic water supply and sanitation services.

The RMP process also takes cognizance of the following Legislations, Policies, Programmes and Reports:

- Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Draft Integrated Management Plan (2013 - 2018).
- Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Draft Integrated Zoning and Tourism Master Plan (2013-2018).
- Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Act, 2003 (Act No. 53 of 2003).
- Communal Land Rights Act, 2004 (Act No. 11 of 2004).
- Development Facilitation Act, 1995 (Act No. 67 of 1995).
- Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (Act No. 13 of 2005).
- Land Administration Act, 1995 (Act No. 2 of 1995).
- Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000).
- National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999).
- Occupation Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993).
- Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994).
- State Land Disposal Act, 1961 (Act No. 48 of 1961).
- Thaba Chweu Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan, (2013 - 2014).
- **Safety of Navigation:** In addition to its common-law responsibility, DWS is, in terms of the requirements described in

the National Water Act, Act No 36 of 1998, amongst others, responsible for the safety of GWWs. DWS, its delegated public sector partner, or a delegated water management institution, has therefore the responsibility to provide the required fixed and/or floating AtoN for general navigation.

In addition to the DWS, Local Accountable AtoN Parties (LAAP) and other Bodies providing access to Government waterways and watercourses have a responsibility to ensure that the required fixed and/or floating AtoN are provided after obtaining the necessary support from DWS and thereafter the permission by SAMSA. In order to demarcate specific zones/areas, standardised demarcation markers are to be used in conjunction with the relevant AtoN.

- SAMSA Marine Notices and its Directive on the Standardisation of fixed and floating AtoN and Demarcation Markers on all navigable Inland Waterways in the Republic of South Africa.

The aim is to enhance the development of a best practice model to ensure a safe and structured inland maritime environment and culture, whilst protecting the country's precious water resources. Not only do these Acts, Regulations and Frameworks guide specific decisions and actions, they also provide the framework for monitoring performance and compliance, and provide guidelines regarding contravention, offences and penalties. This list is not extensive, other legislation could be applicable.

CHAPTER 3: WHAT IS A RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1 DEFINITION OF RMP

A Resource Management Plan (RMP) is a plan which aims to regulate access and the recreational utilization of a water resource and the surrounding state land, in ways which promote community participation and beneficiation, environmental conservation and unlock socio-economic potential of the water resource.

Recreational use includes activities ranging from leisure, sport to culture and religion. Although recreational use does not involve consumption of water, it is still a major water use and needs to be managed effectively with minimal environmental impacts and to ensure communities have access to water based economy.

3.2 PURPOSE OF THE RMP

The main aim of RMPs will be to attain the objectives underlying sustainability and to compile functional, workable sustainable access and utilisation plans for water resources.

Without approved management plans relating to water resources utilized for recreational

purposes, it is difficult for informed decisions to be made necessitating a precautionary approach to access, utilisation and development proposals.

One of the components of the RMP process is to implement an Institutional Plan for effective management of GWWs. The focus on the Institutional Plan is accompanied by a Zoning Plan which is influenced by current and potential recreational uses. The RMP also outlines the Strategic Plan for all the identified objectives for the dam. In addition a Financial Plan is incorporated into the Business Plan (BP) and provides guidance on funding requirements and funding options to implement the potential recreational activities at the dam.

3.3 PROCESS TRIGGERS

Triggers are factors that have encouraged DWS to initiate and commission the development of RMPs.

A number of generic factors have been identified by DWS for the development of RMPs, however, the Process Facilitator identified site specific trigger factors, as illustrated in **Table 8**.

Table 8: Trigger Factors for the Development of Blyderivierspoort Dam RMP

Trigger Factors	Description
Resource Management	<u>Protected Area</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dam being situated within a protected environment can limit the potential development not keeping in line with the sense of place.
Recreational Industry Involvement	<u>Public Safety</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dam is a home to a population of hippos and crocodiles which pose danger to the tourists and patrons who access the dam. There have been reported incidents of drowning and crocodile attacks in the past.
Community Participation and Beneficiation	<u>Community Participation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current dam management institutional structure is representative of MTPA only as the management authority. An institutional structure needs to be

Trigger Factors	Description
	<p>established as part of the RMP process including other important role players that will assist in effectively managing the dam and its surrounding environment.</p> <p><u>Community Beneficiation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no communities living close to the dam. The associated steep gradient makes the accessibility to the dam very difficult. The dam falls within the Nature Reserve and most communities are outside the Reserve.
Public Policy	<p><u>Local Planning Initiative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the RMP incorporates the planning documents from Local or District Municipality in cases where the dam is identified as local development objective in terms of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Spatial Development Framework (SDF) or Tourism Master Plans for the relevant Local or District municipality.

3.4 RMP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The RMP is developed in accordance with the RMP guideline procedure (DWAF, 2006) as illustrated in Figure 25.

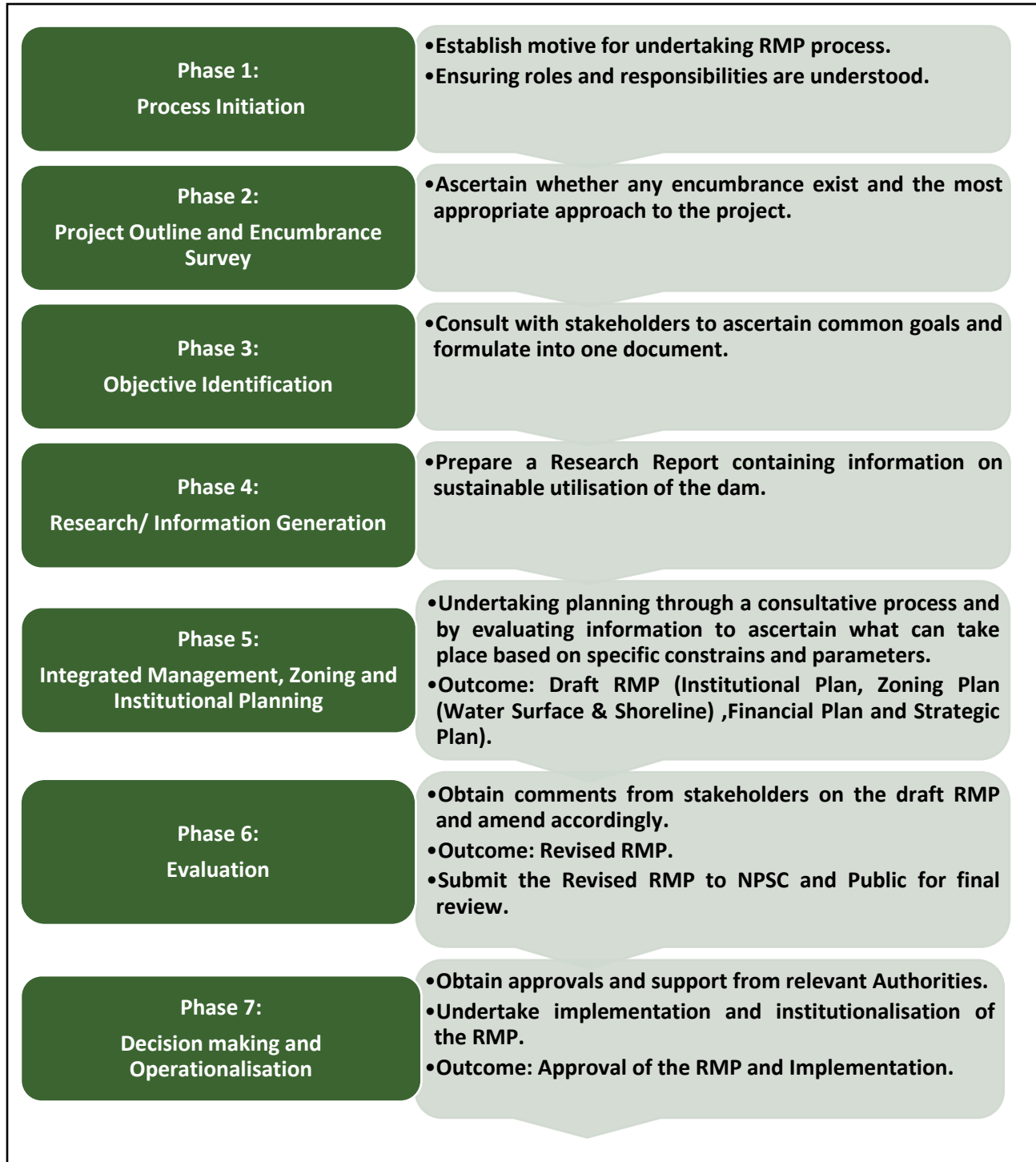


Figure 25: RMP Procedure

3.5 RMP PLANNING STAGES

3.5.1 Desktop Study

The desktop study was conducted with the aim of acquiring background information about the Blyderivierspoort Dam. This was done through literature review. This study provided information such as the location of the dam, user groups, current activities, previous studies conducted for the dam.

3.5.2 Site Inspection

A site inspection was conducted at Blyderivierspoort Dam on **28 May 2014** to gather baseline information using a checklist questionnaire. The site inspection was undertaken with the DWS delegates (DWS IEE, Northern Operations Manager and Dam Manager). Photos of the study area were also taken during site inspection as illustrated in **Figure 26, 27, 28 & 29**.



Figure 26: Overview of the Dam Wall



Figure 27: Unclear Safety Notice Board at the Dam Wall



Figure 28: Overview of the Dam



Figure 29: Interpretation boat

More information was collated from the second meeting which was held at **Lydenburg MTPA offices** on **20 June 2014**. The attendees of the meeting included DWS Personnel: Northern Operations IEE and MTPA ecologist.

3.5.3 Public Participation

Public Participation process (PP) is a process in which potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are given an opportunity to comment on or raise issues relevant to specific matters. The three (3) fundamental and theoretical objectives of PP process as stipulated in the DWAF's Guideline for Public Participation (2001) are:

- To improve decision-making;
- To bring about sustainable development; and
- To normalise the attitudes of stakeholders (Authorities and I&APs).

A Public Participation was conducted in order to acquire information for **Phase 2 (Encumbrance Survey)**, **Phase 3 (Objective Identification)** and **Phase 4 (Research/ Information Gathering)** from stakeholders, which was used to complete **Phase 5 (Integrated Management, Zoning and Institutional Planning)**. In order to successfully complete the RMP, it is essential that the information obtained in the previous phases is utilised as planning input.

The public participation for this project was formulated to include the following objectives:

The public participation process for this project was formulated to include the following objectives:

- The identification of role players;
- The introduction of the RMP project to role players and inform them about their roles and responsibilities;
- The engaging of the Stakeholders (Authorities and I&APs) in the planning process;
- The answering of questions and noting of concerns;

- The identification of important issues, problems, conflicts and alternatives;
- Identification of the overall vision of the dam;
- The elimination of false expectations and preconceptions; and
- The creation of awareness amongst users.

DWAF's Guidelines for Public Participation (2001) outlines three (3) broad phases for public participation namely the **Planning**, **Participation** and **Exit** phase. Summarized below are the aspects of each phase and the approach for this project.

3.5.3.1 The Planning Phase

The Planning Phase entails three (3) important aspects namely;

- Decision analysis;
- Participation planning; and
- Implementation planning.

During the **Planning Phase** a site inspection and literature review was conducted to gather baseline information about the dam. A process was also established to get into contact with the I&APs and relevant Authorities to ensure co-operative interests and support in the RMP project.

3.5.3.1.1 The Role Players

It is recognized that different roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders (Authorities and I&APs), and their relationship towards each other and the steps in the planning procedure are imperative in the successful development of the RMP. It is also important that proper consultation with the public is done in order to produce a credible RMP. As such, the success of the RMP is dependent on the level of involvement of the various stakeholders. Various stakeholders were identified and invited to participate in an open and consultative process. (See attached **Appendix A**). The stakeholder list is updated on a continuous basis throughout the RMP process.

3.5.3.2 The Participation Phase

The **Participation Phase** entails three (3) important aspects:

- Informing and identifying stakeholders – explained briefly under **3.5.3.4 Advertising Process**
- Meeting the stakeholders – explained briefly under **3.5.3.5. Direct Communication**
- Feedback – it is of utmost importance that feedback is directed to and from stakeholders. In this project feedback thus far has been given in a form of minutes of the meetings and follow up e-mails.

3.5.3.3 The Exit Phase

The **Exit Phase** entails two (2) important aspects namely:

- Ensuring that all goals, challenges, concerns, objectives and the vision for the dam have been identified and documented in the RMP.
- Officially ending the public participation process for the RMP process

During this phase, a draft RMP will be presented to the stakeholders so that they can comment and give inputs.

3.5.3.4 The Advertising Process

3.5.3.4.1 *Compilation and Distribution of Background Information Documents (BID)*

The purpose of this document was to provide stakeholders with the background information about the proposed RMP project and to introduce the processes to be followed in developing the plan. It also aimed to inform stakeholders on how to fully participate in the process and encouraged active attendance to stakeholder's engagement meetings. The BID was compiled from the information collated through the desktop study and site inspection (See attached **Appendix B**).

3.5.3.4.2 *Newspaper Advert*

A Newspaper advert regarding the RMP project was placed in the **Kruger 2 Canyon Newspaper**. The advert invited the public to attend the Public Participation Meeting. The advert was published in English on **11 July 2014**. Furthermore, an advert for the draft RMP was advertised on **11 January 2016**. (See attached **Appendix C**).

3.5.3.4.3 *Flyers Compilation and Distribution*

Flyers were also used as a form of notification, they aimed at informing the I&APs about the public consultative meetings. The flyer detailed a brief description of the RMP, meeting date, time, venue and relevant contact details.

The flyers were compiled in English and Xhosa and were distributed on **19 July 2014**. Moreover, the flyers for the draft RMP were distributed on **21 January 2016** (See attached **Appendix D**).

3.5.3.5 Direct Communication

3.5.3.5.1 *E-mails*

Meeting invitations were sent out to authorities and I&APs notifying them about the scheduled consultative meetings. The invitation entailed the BID, meeting venue and time. The email notification was sent out on **07 July 2014**. Moreover, the meeting invites for the draft RMP were sent out on **22 January 2016**. The follow up meeting invites were sent on **05 April 2016** (See attached **Appendix E**).

3.5.3.5.2 *Authority Meeting*

The initial authority meeting was held on **22 July 2014** at the **Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Auditorium (Swadini)**.

The purpose of the meeting was:

- To present the RMP, its goal and the objectives of the project to the authorities; and
- To allow the authorities an opportunity to participate in the project by sharing information on their respective mandates.

The draft RMP was presented to the authorities on **22 April 2016**.

3.5.3.5.3 Public Meeting

The initial public meeting was held on **22 July 2014** at **Blyde Nature Canyon Reserve, Auditorium (Swadini)**. A platform was also given to I&APs to identify encumbrances/ challenges that might hinder the progress of the RMP as well as to identify objectives and vision for the Blyderivierspoort Dam. The draft RMP was presented to the public on **09 February 2016**.

3.5.3.5.3.1 Blyde Project Advisory Committee

The PSP and DWS were invited to attend the Blyde PAC meeting that was held on **13 February 2015** at the **Hippo Hollow in Hazyview**, the aim of the meeting was to present the RMP project to the established Land Claimant Structure where communities claiming the BCNR are represented. Issues of concern regarding the dam were raised, however, the SWOT Analysis was not conducted due to time constraints. An additional meeting was scheduled to take place on **07 May 2015**.

On **07 May 2015**, the Blyde PAC Meeting/ Workshop was attended with the aim to finalize the SWOT Analysis for the dam.

The draft RMP was presented to the four (4) communities of the Land Claimants namely;

Mahubahuba A Bokone, Setlhare, Moletele and Maorabjang CPAs on the **23 & 24 April 2016**.

3.5.3.5.4 Comments and Responses Register

A copy of the draft report was circulated on **21 January 2016** for commenting. The commenting period was to elapse on **10 February 2016**. Due to follow up meetings the commenting period was extended to **16 May 2016**. (See attached **Appendix F**).

3.5.4 Planning Partners

RMPs are developed through a process of cooperative governance and Stakeholder participation. The distinctly different roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders, and their relationship towards each other and the steps in the planning procedure are imperative in the success compilation of the RMP.

The RMP provides for coordination between different governments and agencies to ensure that not only the objectives of DWS are attained, but also the objectives of other relevant Government Departments are attained. Such Departments includes among others as outlined in **Table 9**.

Table 9: Planning Partners and their Respective Mandates

Department/ Agency	Mandate
Ehlanzeni District Municipality/Thaba Chweu Local Municipality (EDM/TCLM)	The dam is within the jurisdiction of the municipalities and mandated to provide bulk water services.
Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)	To grow tourism and manage bio-diversity to stimulate sustainable economic growth that is inclusive and creates decent employment. MTPA currently manages Blyderivierspoort Dam for recreational activities.
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)	The purpose of DAFF includes sustainable development and management of resources to maximizing the economic potential of the fisheries sector while protecting the integrity and quality of the country's aquatic ecosystems.

Department/ Agency	Mandate
	Operation Phakisa expansion to inland dams is one of DAFF initiative aimed at unlocking economic potential of fisheries sector within the inland water. The latter programme will be used as benchmark for implementation of conservation policies while implementing job creation within fishery and fish processing market.
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR)	As part of the RMP process the Department will assist in terms of Land Claims/Ownership issues.
Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	Responsible for Biodiversity Management within the dam including Invasive Alien Species.
Department of Public Works (DPW)	Has the power to regulate and control the use of state land outside the GWWs. In this regard, lease agreements or permits will be required from the department as some of the recreational activities will overlap into the state land.
Department of Transport (DoT)	Responsible for legislation, policy and regulations for all transportation in South Africa, including shipping and other transport by water or sea also inland waterways.
National Treasury (NT)	The use of State assets is governed by National Treasury Regulations, requiring DWS to plan concessions in compliance or association with National Treasury, guided by the Tourism Public Private Partnership (PPP) Toolkit of 2005.
South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA)	One of SAMSA's three legislative mandates is "to ensure safety of life and property at sea". The Act enables SAMSA to administer and execute the relevant maritime legislation.

3.6 RMP DATA ANALYSIS

3.6.1 Encumbrance Survey (Phase 2)

The purpose of the Encumbrance Survey is to investigate/ ascertain whether any encumbrances exist around the dam and other factors that may influence the development and implementation of the RMP. The survey also identifies the information that is required for effective decision-making regarding the RMP (DWAF, 2006).

The identified encumbrances will assist DWS to identify hindrances and other factors that may influence the development and implementation of the RMP. The identified encumbrances are broken down into **Biophysical, Social and Existing Plans**.

Tables 10 - 12 outline the summary of limitations that might affect the development or implementation of the RMP for the dam.

Table 10: Summary of Biophysical Encumbrances

Item	Description
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red data species exists such as Nile crocodile, African Rock Python etc. may occur at areas with potential for recreational development (e.g. boat house) and this will impact negatively in ways that will transform or disturb their habitats. Alien invasive species like Pines and Black Wattles are a threat to the indigenous biodiversity as they consume large quantities of water which will impact the water level and also the habitat of the indigenous species.
Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hippos pose danger to the people who access the dam as hippos are aggressive towards humans, whom they commonly attack whether on land or boats with no apparent provocation. Hippos are widely considered as one of dangerous animals. Interpretation boat trips occur at certain time intervals not too early in the morning and not too late in the afternoon mainly to avoid the Hippos. The swimming activity is not allowed at Blyderivierspoort Dam due to the presence of hippos and crocodiles in the water. Potential water based activities are limited due to aquatic life at the dam. Species of concern (Red Data Species) exists and may occur at areas identified for proposed recreational developments and this may impact negatively in transforming or disturbing their habitat. The presence of alien fish species in the water may be accompanied by habitat reduction, variety of diseases, and genetic change to indigenous fish population.
Topography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steep slopes constitutes a constraint to potential development on the dam surroundings like establishing other access points to the dam. This will be challenging in terms of constructing the road. Steep gradients can have negative impact on the water quality as a result of increased erosion and surface runoff into the dam. Steep slopes are prone to disastrous events such as rockslides which have occurred at Blyderivierspoort Dam in the past. Steep slopes limits land recreational activities and will mostly have to use water surface for recreational activities.
Geology & Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red soil is weak, poor, and porous and has loose gravel, this might impact on the stability of future recreational infrastructures. Acidic/leached soil patterns which have an impact on soil chemistry, may cause soil not to support any vegetation life.

Table 11: Summary of Social Encumbrances

Item	Description
Tourism Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dam being situated within a protected environment can limit potential development not keeping in line with the sense of place.
Social Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unemployed group in this region does not have the necessary skills to enter the tourism market hence they may be inactive to participate in the tourism sector. It is likely that the high rate of unemployment in ward 8 may be accompanied by theft and high crime levels which are strong factors discouraging tourism in an area. The majority of residents in ward 8 will not have received any kind of training to equip themselves to become active participants in the tourism sector due to the low percentage of the population that have furthered their studies in higher education.

Table 12: Summary of Existing Plans Encumbrances

Item	Description
Institutional Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management structure is limited to MTPA only, other institutions which can play a vital role in assisting to effectively manage the dam should be included in the structure as part of the RMP process.

Upon identifying the encumbrances, objectives needed to be identified in order to facilitate a planning procedure aimed at the compilation of a RMP. It is essential to clarify objectives to be met by the planning procedure (DWAF, 2006).

3.6.2 SWOT Analysis and Objective Identification

The SWOT Analysis was conducted to gather Strengths and Opportunities that define the potential of the dam whereas the challenges regarding the dam were identified through Weaknesses and Threats. The common key objectives were formulated and identified from the Strengths and Opportunities of the dam. Moreover, the vision for the dam for a period of 20 years was formulated by stakeholders from the identified objectives.

3.6.2.1 SWOT Analysis Approach

There were issues of concerns that were raised in the stakeholder engagement meetings prior to conducting the SWOT Analysis. Other challenges or encumbrances that may hinder the progress

of the dam's RMP process were identified by the stakeholders following the SWOT analysis approach as illustrated in **Table 13**.

NB: The SWOT Analysis illustrates other factors outside the scope of the RMP.

Table 13: SWOT Analysis for Blyderivierspoort Dam

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dam's location being part of the Nature Reserve. • The dam has been incorporated in the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) of the BCNR as part of the Nature Reserve's planning. • The serenity and the beauty of the dam is a major attraction for both local and international tourists. • The dam is located within the largest green canyon in the world and within the 3rd largest canyon in the world. • There is a communication structure (Co-Management Committee) that has been established to engage with the local communities. • There is only one access to the dam and an effective access control in place. • The dam is in the vicinity to other eco-tourism facilities such as game drives to the Kruger National Park, Reptile Rehabilitation Centre and the Kapama Game Reserve etc. • The dam impounds Blyde River which is considered a pristine river and has the high water quality standard. • The safety of the dam and its surrounding area is good compared to other dams. • There is limited presence of alien invasive species in the dam due to controlled boating activities taking place. No foreign boats are allowed in the dam. • There is ownership around the dam. • The size/ capacity of the dam for tourism developments. • The Tufa Waterfall and the three (3) Roundavels that are seen during the boat trips/ cruises on the dam. • There are mountains and natural vegetation around the dam that prevents the high evaporation rate. • The dam is a national strategic asset and falls within a broader catchment area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On ecological point of view the dam is within a sensitive area and that limits the dam from what it can offer to the general public. • The dam has low fish production due to its depth resulting in light penetration to be insufficient for the process of photosynthesis to occur. • Visitor's centre staff is not interacting well with the visitors and that is not good for business. • Availability of information in the visitors centre is lacking and there are no sufficient displays of posters or information boards. • Local communities are not yielding any benefits from the dam and are seeing no prospects of job opportunities. • Land Owner's difficulty to access the development funds. • No title deeds on Land Ownership. • Lack of skills and capacity within local communities. • There is infighting/ conflicts within local communities. • The dam is underutilized. • The jurisdiction area of the dam causes confusion.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a cable car is underway and will increase the number of visitors to the dam and its surrounding areas. • Developments of accommodation lodges in the vicinity of the dam. • The possibility of low impact and controlled activities that can be introduced e.g. guided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is cyanide leachate with potential pollution to the dam from the Pilgrim's Rest mine and is a concern. • Recreational proposals that are not in line with the sense of a place e.g. introduction of quad biking, mountain climbing and scuba diving etc.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>walking trails, river rafting, birding and specialized fishing etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dam is located in a scenic tranquil place and has the potential to accommodate all types of tourists e.g. tourists who are fond of nature and who enjoy bird watching etc. • The BCNR has a co-management committee formed between the management authority (MTPA) and Land Claimants (Land Owners) for effective communication and management of the reserve and the dam basin. • Re-Establishment of the Blyde River Canyon Hiking Trail as it is a huge tourist attraction. • Establishment of the Hydro-Power station either below the dam wall or in Matibidi. • An introduction of commercial boating and cruise boating. • A development of a boat house. • An establishment of a floating restaurant on the dam. • Subsistence fishing for the survival of the local communities. • Introduction of abseiling, river rafting, jet skiing, and fishing as recreational activities. • Development of camps. • Possible swimming on the shallow water area away from hippos and crocodiles. • Job opportunities to emanate from any developments on the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During rainy seasons the siltation and alien plants are washed into the Ohrigstad River and subsequently deposited into the dam. • Trails that are not properly marked on the Blyde River Canyon Hiking Trails and other shorter trails results in incidents (e.g. injuries) and visitors being lost around the nature reserve. • Flooding of the dam, although it happened once which was ten (10) years ago. • The conflicts/ infightings within local communities will affect potential developments on or around the dam if not addressed. • Lack of security of assets. • The dangers of wild animals in the Nature Reserve if not managed properly e.g. Hippo. • The poor management structure.

3.6.2.2 Objective Identification (Phase 3)

Objectives were identified by all the stakeholders in order to ascertain common goals. These objectives address the following questions:

- What do we want?
- How are we going to achieve this?
- Who will be involved?
- By when would we like to achieve our goals?
- Why would we want to achieve our goals?

The set common key objectives were derived from the SWOT Analysis for the Blyderivierspoort Dam and have been categorized into three (3) Key Performance Areas (KPA's) as illustrated below:

KPA 1: Resource Management

- To have the dam free of Alien Invasive Vegetation;
- To conserve, preserve the tranquility of the dam and its beautiful surroundings such as the three (3) Roundavels and the Kadishi Tufa Waterfall, moreover, to utilize the dam in a sustainable manner;
- To promote safety against hippo attacking patrons or tourists by limiting recreational activities at the dam; and
- To have the dam free of Alien Fish Species.

KPA 2: Resource Utilisation

- To ensure safety in all aspects regarding the utilization of the resource and associated recreational infrastructure; and
- To improve safety of navigation through the implementation of standardised and harmonised AtoN and demarcation markers as directed by SAMSA.

KPA 3: Benefit Flow Management

- To uplift the local economy and increase benefit flows to the surrounding

communities through employment upliftment opportunities, empowerment as well as social and education programmes;

- To see that the whole of Blyderivierspoort Dam in the lower canyon as recreationally marketed for long weekend destination since the dam has high ecotourism potential;
- To have an effective and suitable recreational institutional structure that will assist to effectively manage the recreational utilization of the dam and its surrounding state land;
- An introduction of commercial boating and cruise boating;
- A development of a boat house;
- An establishment of a floating restaurant on the dam;
- Subsistence fishing for the survival of the local communities; and
- To see job opportunities emanate from any dam recreational developments.

Action projects required to achieve these objectives are provided in detail in **Section 4.3 (The Strategic Plan)**.

The vision for the dam in a period of 20 years was formulated from the key common objectives identified by the stakeholders and stands as follows:

"To ensure conservation and integrity of the dam and its surrounding area to become the ultimate tourist destination as it is located in a unique scenic tranquil place and to unlock its socio-economic potential".

After setting both the dam's specific objectives, a research was conducted in order to provide relevant information to decision – makers regarding the sustainable utilisation of the water resource and where applicable the Sate Land..

3.6.3 Research/ Information Generation (Phase 4)

The aim of undertaking the research process was to collect the relevant data about the dam. This will serve as a decision-making guideline tool,

guided by the objectives set for the dam and any limitations due to encumbrances. The report documents the following data as illustrated in **Figure 30**.

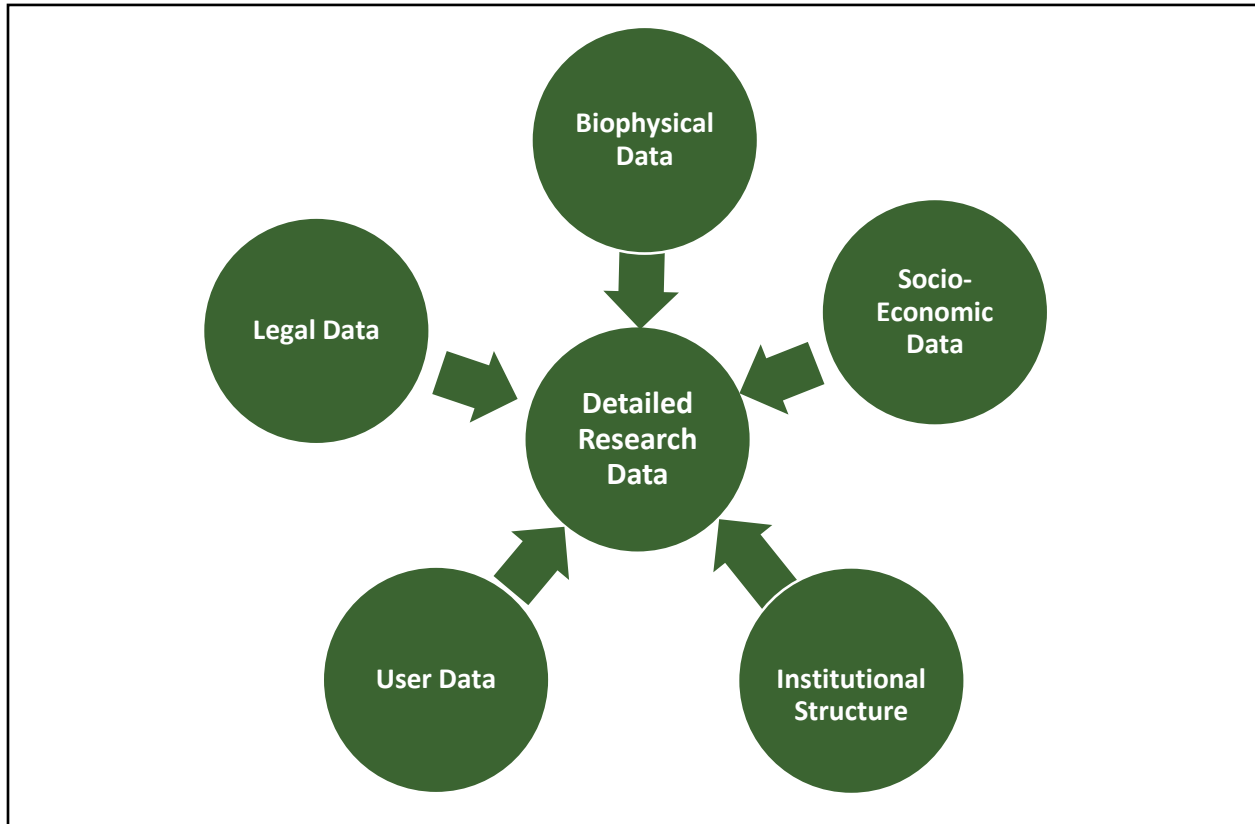


Figure 30: Research Data

The main aim of the research was to identify the dam tourism development potential and also to evaluate the practicability/ feasibility of the potential objectives identified.

3.6.3.1 Tourism Development Potential

TCLM is characterized by escarpment and surrounding mountains, nature reserves and amazing landscapes providing wonderful tourism attraction. Tourism activities in TCLM are concentrated around the beautiful areas of **Pilgrim's Rest, Blyderivierspoort, Sabie** and **Graskop**. These tourism activities have regional implications and should be managed taking into

account the regional influence (TCLM, 2013/14). The dam has become a tourist attraction and of the picturesque of the BCNR. Land developments are also limited due to the location of the dam within the protected area.

3.6.3.2 Feasibility for Identified Potential Objectives

According to DWAF (2006), the feasibility of the proposed objectives needs to be determined in light of the local environmental conditions. **Table 14** shows the practicability of all proposed recreational objectives.

Table 14: Feasibility of Potential Recreational Objectives

KPA 1: Resource Management		
Objectives	Status Quo	Practicability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have the dam free of Alien Invasive Vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Alien Invasive Plants have not been introduced into the dam as yet, however the largest portion of the BCNR is covered by the North-Eastern Mountain Sourveld. This vegetation type is under severe threat from the spread of Alien Invasive Species such as Pines and Black Wattles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and performing eradication should be incorporated with the Department of Environmental Affairs' programmes such as Working for Water (WfW).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve, preserve the tranquility of the dam and its beautiful surroundings such as the three (3) Roundavels and the Kadishi Tufa Waterfall, moreover, to utilize the dam in a sustainable manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dam is currently included in the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the BCNR to ensure sustainable use. The IMP and other policies (i.e. MTPA Regulations and NWA etc.) in place guides the conservation and preservation of the Nature Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MTPA has a legislative mandate which vests the custodianship of biodiversity conservation. The IMP is in place to provide necessary policy statements and strategies to address management issues associated with the Nature Reserve and the dam.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote safety against hippo attacking patrons or tourists by limiting recreational activities at the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IMP documents approaches that aims to minimize the need to control problem animals, pro-active and preventative measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BCNR IMP outlines the operational policy and procedures, dealing with problem animals in and around the boundaries of the reserve and should be in line with relevant Problem Animal Management Guidelines, taking into consideration the National Policy and Strategy for Problem Animal Control in South Africa.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have the dam free of Alien Fish Species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are three (3) Alien Fish Species that occur in the dam and around the reserve namely Smallmouth bass, Largemouth bass and Rainbow trout. The Rainbow trout predate on indigenous fish such as the Treur River Barb. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is currently an annual fishing competition hosted by MTPA, to remove the Alien Fish from the dam. Any fish captured on the net that is not Bass or Trout is returned back into the water. This activity is effective and should be an ongoing routine of controlling Alien Fish Species in the dam. The catch can perhaps be donated to local communities as food to those needy

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		members of the community. Instead of being released back into the dam.
KPA 2: Resource Utilisation		
Objectives	Status Quo	Practicability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure safety in all aspects regarding the utilization of the resource and its associated infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the site inspection patrons were not provided with life jackets prior to taking the boat trip. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the RMP process, all boating activities should be compliant to Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulation, 2007. SAMSA's mandate is to ensure safety of the boats (vessels) and that the skippers are compliant to the regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve safety of navigation through the implementation of standardised and harmonised AtoN and demarcation markers as directed by SAMSA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no adequate standardised and harmonised AtoN and demarcation markers available on the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve safety of navigation through the implementation of standardised and harmonised AtoN and demarcation markers as directed by SAMSA.
KPA 3: Benefit Flow Management		
Objectives	Status Quo	Practicability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To uplift the local economy and increase benefit flows to the locals through employment upliftment, empowerment as well as environmental education programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The involvement of CPAs will assist in identifying skills and gaps within communities. This will assist in improving on-required skills through training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of RMP will guide recreational developments and the local communities will have the opportunities to equip themselves and become active participants in the tourism sector. MTPA to conduct a feasibility study to determine additional potential and or commercial opportunities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction of commercial boating or cruise boating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a boat cruise currently taking place at the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All concessions must follow competitive bidding.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A development of a boat house. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are sensitive areas within protected areas that will hinder recreational developments not in line with the sense of place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of a boat house should be subjected to a feasibility study. However, the need for the boat house is not vital, as the boats can be moored at the dam.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To oversee that the whole of the dam in the lower canyon is recreationally marketed as it has a high ecotourism potential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The marketing material for the Nature Reserve within which the dam is located is the three (3) Roundavels only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The publication of the reserve within which the dam is situated, shall be increased by using the attractive photos of the dam itself as a new marketing material not only using the photos of the three (3) Roundavels.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of the local media by inviting journalists to the dam will give them an opportunity to view the site, take boat trips, take pictures and publish articles about the beautiful place and exciting experiences they had whilst visiting the dam.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have an effective and suitable recreational institutional structure that will assist to effectively manage the recreational utilization of the dam and its surrounding state land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTPA is currently managing the dam for all recreational activities under old agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTPA to be appointed as an Implementing Agency. • Roles and responsibilities of an IA to be clear and well defined.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsistence fishing for the survival of the local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dam is unique in terms of its location. There are no communities nearer the dam. Communities are outside the Nature Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fish caught during the annual fish competition hosted by MTPA should be donated to the communities outside the Nature Reserve to sustain the livelihoods of the communities. The donation of the fish should be strategized in the CMC meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An establishment of a floating restaurant on the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dam is fairly narrow and is a home to a population of Hippos and Crocodiles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hippos inhabiting are aggressive towards humans, whom they commonly attack whether on land or on water with no apparent provocation. Hippos are widely considered as one of dangerous animals. Hence the development of the floating restaurant will trigger a feasibility study.

CHAPTER 4: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT, ZONING AND INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING (PHASE 5)

The purpose of this phase is to evaluate the information obtained from previous stages to ascertain what could be achieved based on specific constraints and parameters of the various input factors such as biophysical, cultural and socio-economic, current institutional and the needs of the dam users. The Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) will take into account the following:

- Biophysical, cultural and socio-economic and user needs constraints;
- Development potential and requirements;
- Site planning and Zonation;
- Programmes and plans that will unlock the potential of the water resource; and
- Institution options and legal aspects required to create these programmes and plans.

The IRMP is broken down into four (4) main plans namely the **Institutional Plan**, **Zoning Plan**, **Strategic Plan** and **Financial Plan** as illustrated in **Figure 31**.

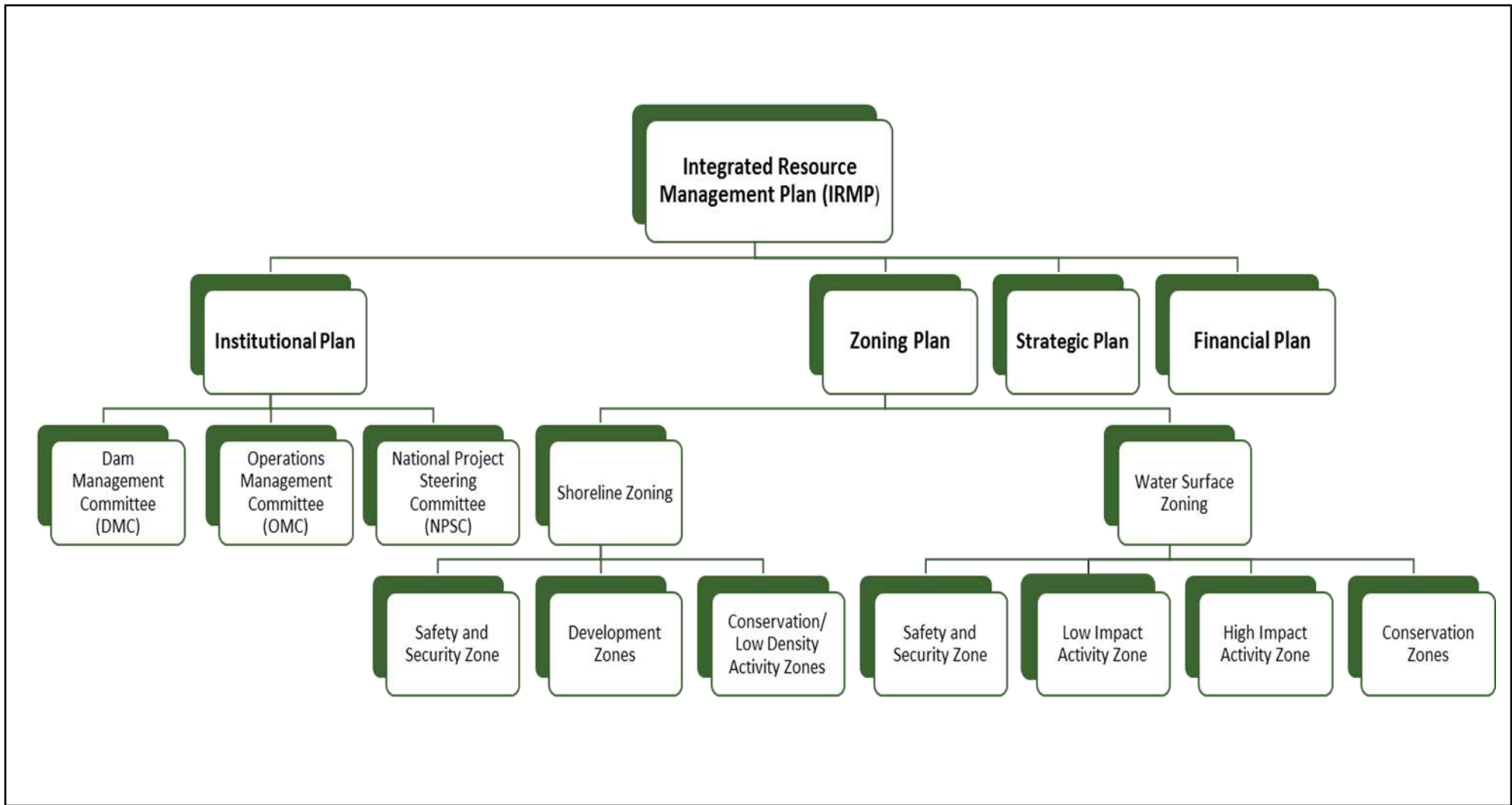


Figure 31: Integrated Resource Management Plan

4.1 INSTITUTIONAL PLAN

The Institutional Plan provides a framework for the institutional arrangements at the dam. The proposed management systems includes three (3) committees namely; The Dam Management Committee (DMC), Operations Management Committee (OMC) and National Project Steering Committee (NPSC). The appointed management authorities by DWS at the dams, also form part of the institutional structure.

4.1.1 Dam Management Committee (DMC)

DMC refers to any party that is interested or affected by the dam and will assist in raising and addressing issues relating to the dam.

One of the main functions of the DMC is to give support to Implementing Agency (IA) in the management of the dam for recreational purposes. Moreover, to assess commercial opportunities at the dam. As such, an agenda item related to the Strategic Plan for commercialization is required. In addition, changes in water quality, developments in the area, status of Aquatic Invasive Species and

education and information programmes should be discussed. The DMC must meet quarterly.

The functions of the DMC include the following (amongst others):

- Seeking resolution for general management issues;
- Monitoring the practical implementation of the RMP and BP;
- Reviewing the feedback received from I&APs;
- Operational management of recreational activities such as ensuring the floating AtoN and demarcation markers are in place and setting times for use of the dam (no recreational activities can take place between sunset and sunrise);
- Conveying the Management Objectives and decisions pertaining to the dam to the relevant stakeholders; and
- Management of the incident management system and wash bays.

Figure 32 illustrates the proposed user groups that will form part of the DMC.

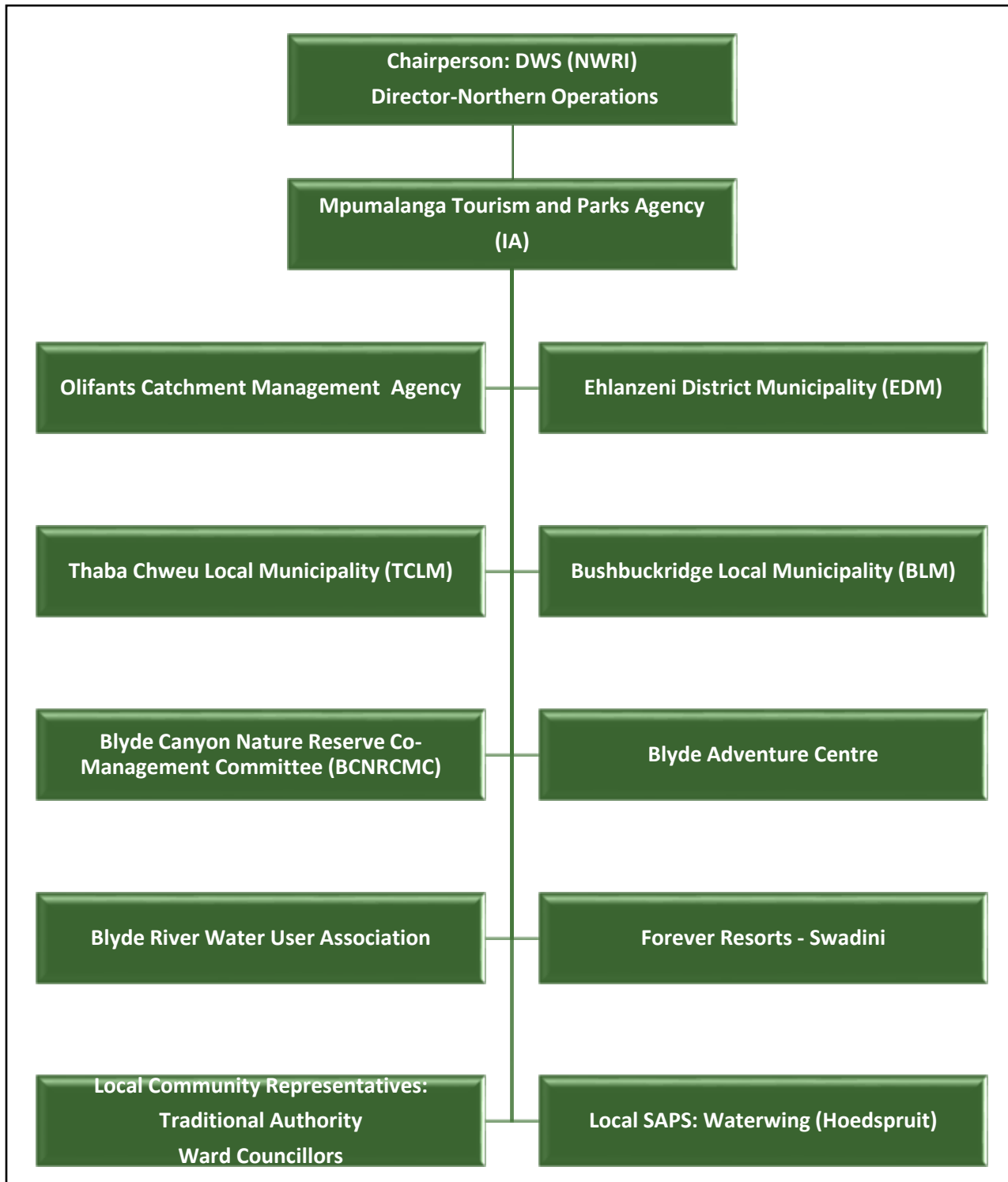


Figure 32: Proposed DMC

The DMC will have a number of management tools which will enable proper management of the dam in line with legislative requirements.

4.1.1.1 Management Tools

Terms of Reference

The DMC and NPSC will be guided by Terms of Reference (ToR) regarding roles and responsibilities. ToR is not required for the **OMC** as this is an existing reporting structure. The ToR provides guidance on the following management aspects:

- Roles and Responsibility of chairperson;
- Roles and Responsibilities of IA;
- Roles and Responsibilities of members;
- Minutes and attendance requirements;
- Reporting requirements;
- Management of agreements;
- Management of access objectives;
- Management of development targets.
- Management of water quality monitoring;
- Management of the control of aquatic invasive species;
- Management of development pressure.
- Management of incident management system; and
- Management of AtoN and demarcation markers.

Agreements

One of the main management tool available is the use of agreements to ensure proper use of the dam in line with the RMP vision and objectives.

Agreements between DWS and Implementing Agency

MTPA will be appointed as an Implementing Agency (IA) for the RMP of Blyderivierspoort Dam. MTPA and DWS will sign a MOA, which is a legal binding document which will outline the roles and responsibilities and conditions to be followed by both parties in terms of managing the water resource for recreational use.

The minimum requirements of an IA includes the following:

- An IA can be a government entity or a public-sector body identified by DWS;
- Must have the best interest of a water resource and the community at large; and
- Must be willing to work with DWS and other users of the water resource.

The IA is appointed to manage commercial and recreational use of the dam. This would include the following:

- Management of public access area;
- Management of incident management system;
- Management of community skills and training programmes;
- Management of commercial activities (in line with Treasury Requirements); and
- Management of AtoN and demarcation markers.

Regardless, all agreements should be in line with the RMP requirements and relevant Legislations and Regulations.

Safety of Navigation Agreements

In addition to its common law responsibility, DWS is, in terms of the requirements described in the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), amongst others, responsible for the safety of GWWs and watercourses, including its dams. DWS, its delegated public sector partner, or a delegated water management institution, has therefore the responsibility to provide the required fixed and/ or floating AtoN³ for general navigation.

Agreements between SAMSA and DWS, other relevant Parties or Bodies are to be concluded to allow them to:

- Exhibit the relevant AtoN; and

³ AtoN refers to any sort of marker which aids the traveler in navigation; the term is most commonly used to refer to

nautical or aviation travel, common types of such aids include lighthouses, buoys, fog signals and day beacons.

- Establish or deploy the relevant fixed and/or floating AtoN.

Event Applications

All events must be managed through an event application process. The applications will be submitted to the IA for approval and to DWS for commenting. These applications must follow a specific template and will include the following:

- Number of participants;
- Emergency Response Plan;
- Advertising and branding (will need to be in line with DWS communication requirements); and
- Access points to be used.

Furthermore, all Events must meet the requirements of the Safety at Sports and Recreation Act, 2010 (Act No. 2 of 2010).

4.1.2 Operations Management Committee (OMC)

There is an existing Chief Director: Infrastructure Operations Management Committee (CD: IO MANCO) within Infrastructure Operations which comprises of all directors of four (4) operations (Northern, Southern, Eastern and Central) and is chaired by the Chief Director: Infrastructure Operations within NWRI as illustrated in **Figure 33**.

The committee should meet quarterly discussing matters relating to operations and maintenance of all GWWs. A RMP must be a standard agenda item. Any matters relating to the RMP that are outside the scope of DWS will be escalated to the NPSC.

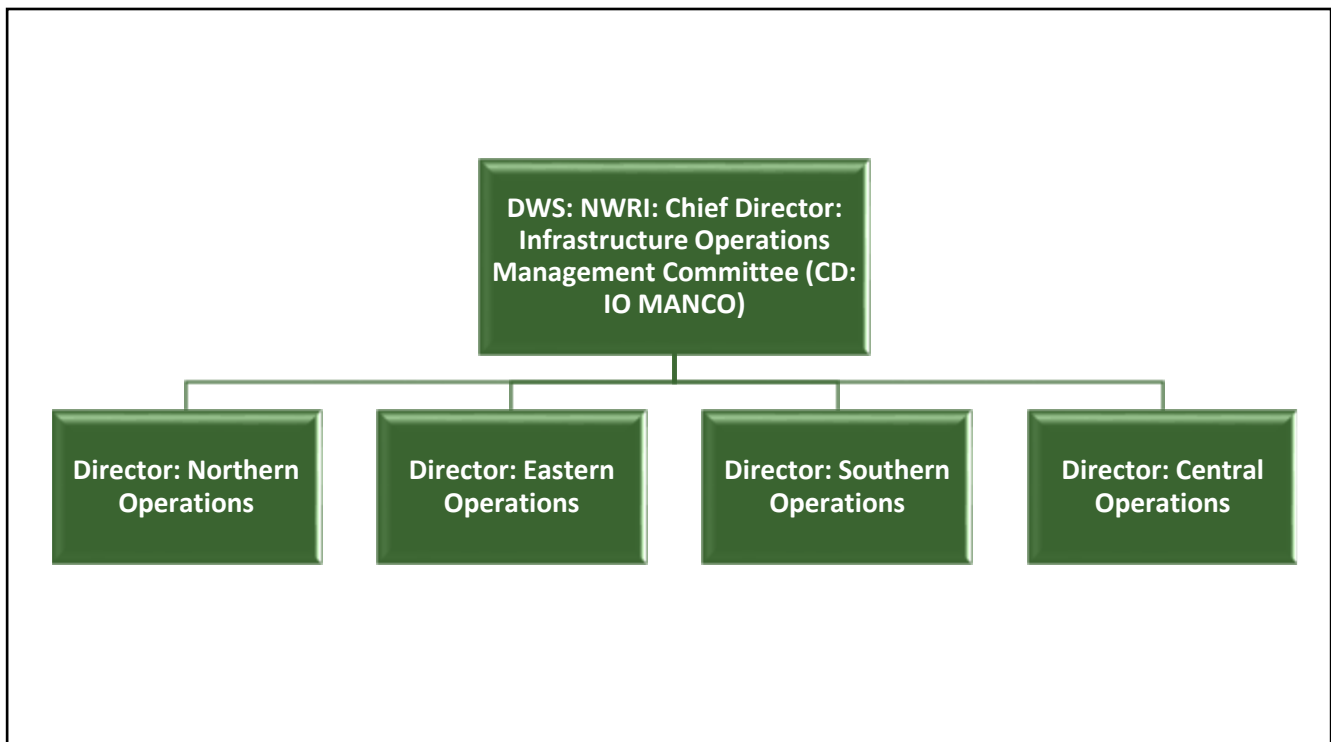


Figure 33: Existing CD: IO MANCO

4.1.3 National Project Steering Committee (NPSC)

NPSC is formed by DWS and is made up of representatives from National Government Departments and Implementing Agencies that are relevant in terms of managing the water resource.

The primary function of the NPSC is to provide guidance on recreational water use in terms of their respective mandates as well as to ensure that continuous support by different

Government Sectors is provided to the dam with the aim of achieving sustainable utilisation of the dam for recreational purposes. The NPSC should meet twice a year. **Figure 34** illustrates a typical Governmental Departments that will form part of the NPSC:

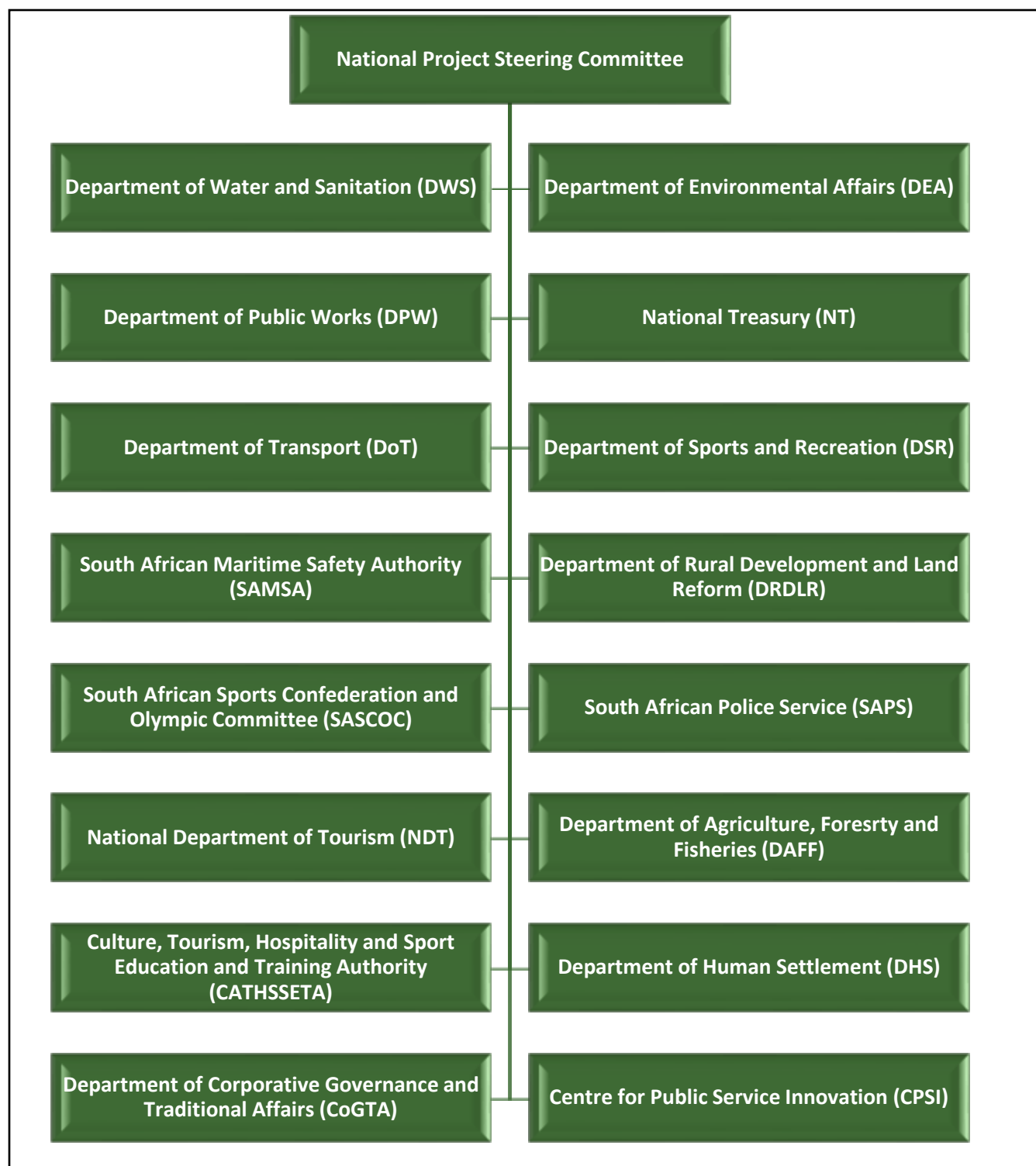


Figure 34: Proposed NPSC

The role of the relevant departments forming part of the NPSC is listed below:

Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI):

The CPSI is supporting a multi-departmental working group that is developing an innovative approach to inland water and safety integrity. The project, was initiated out of the need to find an innovative, practical and cost-effective way to implement SAMSA' vessel safety regulations on inland waterways and to implement responsible water use within the broader socio-economic context of the country.

The CIWSP is a project piloted by CPSI that is a partnership between multiple Government entities and between the Government and communities. The main aim of the project is to enhance the development of a best practice model to ensure safe and structured inland maritime environment and culture, whilst protecting the country's precious water resource.

Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality, Sport Sector, Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA):

CATHSSETA deals with the approval and financing of training relating to culture, hospitality, tourism and sport sectors.

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF):

The purpose of DAFF includes sustainable development and management of resources to maximizing the economic potential of the fisheries sector while protecting the integrity and quality of the country's aquatic ecosystems.

Operation Phakisa expansion to inland dams is one of DAFF initiative aimed at unlocking economic potential of fisheries sector within the inland water. The latter programme will be used as benchmark for implementation of conservation policies while implementing job

creation within fishery and fish processing market.

Department of Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA):

Its function is to develop national policies and legislation with regard to Provinces and Local government, and to monitor their implementation. Other function of the Department is to support Provinces and Local Government in fulfilling their constitutional and legal obligations.

Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA):

DEA is mandated to give effect to the right of citizens to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing, and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations. In relation to the RMP, the Department should ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments is undertaken for all activities that triggers EIA Regulations at the dam. Furthermore, DEA through WfW programme can assist to eradicate alien invasive plants species (Blue Gums and Parrot Furthers) and alien invasive fish species at the dam.

Department of Public Works (DPW):

DPW has the power to regulate and control the use of state land outside the GWWs. In this regard, lease agreements or permits will be required from the Department as some of the recreational activities will overlap into the State Land, e.g. trail running, biking and running.

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR):

The Department is tasked with the facilitation of land claims within the country. They are also involved in rural development by improving both economic infrastructure (such as roads, etc.) and social infrastructure (e.g. communal sanitation and non-farming activities).

Department of Sports and Recreation (DSR):

The Department is mandated to promote and develop sport and recreation activities and also in co-ordination of the relationships between the Sports Commission, national and recreation federations and other agencies.

Department of Tourism (NDT):

The Department is mandated to create conditions for the sustainable growth and development of tourism in South Africa. The Tourism Act makes provision for the promotion of tourism to and in the Republic and for regulation and rationalisation of the tourism sector, including measures aimed at the enhancement and maintenance of the standards of facilities and services utilised by tourists; and the co-ordination and rationalisation of the activities of those who are active in the tourism sector.

Department of Transport (DoT):

Responsible for legislation, policy and regulations for all transportation in South Africa, including shipping and other transport by water or sea, including small vessels and inland waterways.

Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS):

DWS through the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) is mandated to protect aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity as well as to reduce degradation of the water resources. As part of its mandate, DWS initiated the development of RMPs together with the supporting BPs with the aim of ensuring sustainable and equitable development, utilisation and management of GWWs.

National Treasury (NT):

The Department is mandated to support the optimal allocation and utilisation of financial resources in all spheres of government. As part of the RMP, The National Treasury Public Private Partnership (PPP) Toolkit for Tourism (2005), will

assist the process of tourism-based businesses development on State-owned Land. The Toolkit make it easier for Institutions and the Private Sector to enter into tourism related partnerships on State Property managed by National, Provincial and Local Government Institutions.

South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA):

Administers and executes maritime related legislation and regulations, including the National Small Vessel Safety Regulations and ensures standardisation, harmonisation and compliance of all AtoN in South African waters.

South African Police Service (SAPS):

The South African Police Service have been entrusted with the responsibility of creating a safe and secure environment for all people in South Africa as well as to prevent anything that may threaten the safety or security of any community.

South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC):

SASCOC is mandated to promote and develop high performance of sports as well as to act as a controlling body for sports in South Africa. It can also assist to coordinate organise events at the dam.

4.2 ZONING PLAN

According to DWAF RMP Guideline DWAF (2006), a site-specific master planning and zoning which describes a framework for the allocation of zones needs to be undertaken based on the results of the Encumbrance Survey and basic Research regarding the Bio-physical, Social and Cultural environment as well as the objectives set by the Stakeholders (refer to section 3.6).

The proposed Zoning Plan will integrate conservation, recreation and development whilst not retarding the primary functions of the dam.

4.2.1 Water Surface Zoning

The water surface zoning provides guidance on permissible and non-permissible recreational activities on the water surface taking into account the biophysical factors of the dam. The Water Surface is zoned as follows:

Safety and Security Zone:

It covers a minimum of 100m area from the wall and outlet works indicated by demarcation markers and AtoN. This area is reserved for DWS management purposes.

Management of this zone is aimed at protecting the dam wall and outlet works, as well as to ensure the safety of the public. This is a no-go zone to the public unless authorised.

Conservation Zones:

The aim of this zone is to conserve and protect sensitive aquatic habitation at the inlet(s) of the dam. According to Section 12 and 26 of NWA, the existence of these zones is thus not negotiable as it is imperative to protect the water resource for the purposes relating to basic human needs, environmental sustainability and water quality requirements. Access to these areas is generally not allowed due to the following:

- The areas intercept sediments and nutrients/pollutants which pose safety risks to the public due to muddy clay, and
- They are used by aquatic birds and fish species as habitat, refuge and breeding areas.

Low Impact Activity Zone:

This zone act as a buffer between High Impact Activity Zones and Conservation Zones. Low Impact Activity Zone allows for low intensity activities, i.e. activities associated with little or no wake such as wind surfing, kayaking, swimming, rowing, sailing, paddle boating, float tubes, canoeing, angling, yachting, aquaculture and small scale fisheries.

High Impact Activity Zone:

This zone has the largest water surface area and is located where the reservoir is at its deepest. It caters for high impact activities associated with high speed, wake and noise activities such as motorised boating, house boating, water skiing, and para-sailing.

The water surface zoning colour coding means the following:

Colour	Zone Description
Red	Safety and Security Zone
Green	Conservation Zone
Sky Blue	Low Impact Activity Zone
Dark Blue	High Impact Activity Zone

Table 15: Proposed Water Surface Zoning Description

Zone Name	Permissible Activities	Non-Permissible Activities	Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety and Security Zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alien invasive species clearing Management of dam infrastructure Management and maintenance activities by DWS and authorised personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public acces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area should be demarcated by demarcation makers and AtoN.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public activities (to prevent aquatic habitats disturbance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area should be demarcated by demarcation makers and AtoN. Strict management and control of these areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Impact Activity Zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities associated with no or little water wakes such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretation/Cruise boating (Low gear) Floating Jetty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind surfing Speed boats (motorised) Skiing Rowing Sailing Swimming Canoeing Kayaking Sailing Paddle Boating Float tubes Boat Angling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area should be demarcated by demarcation markers and AtoN. No private slipways and/or Floating Jetties to be built without approval from DWS. Launching and mooring of low gear vessels should take place at this zone.

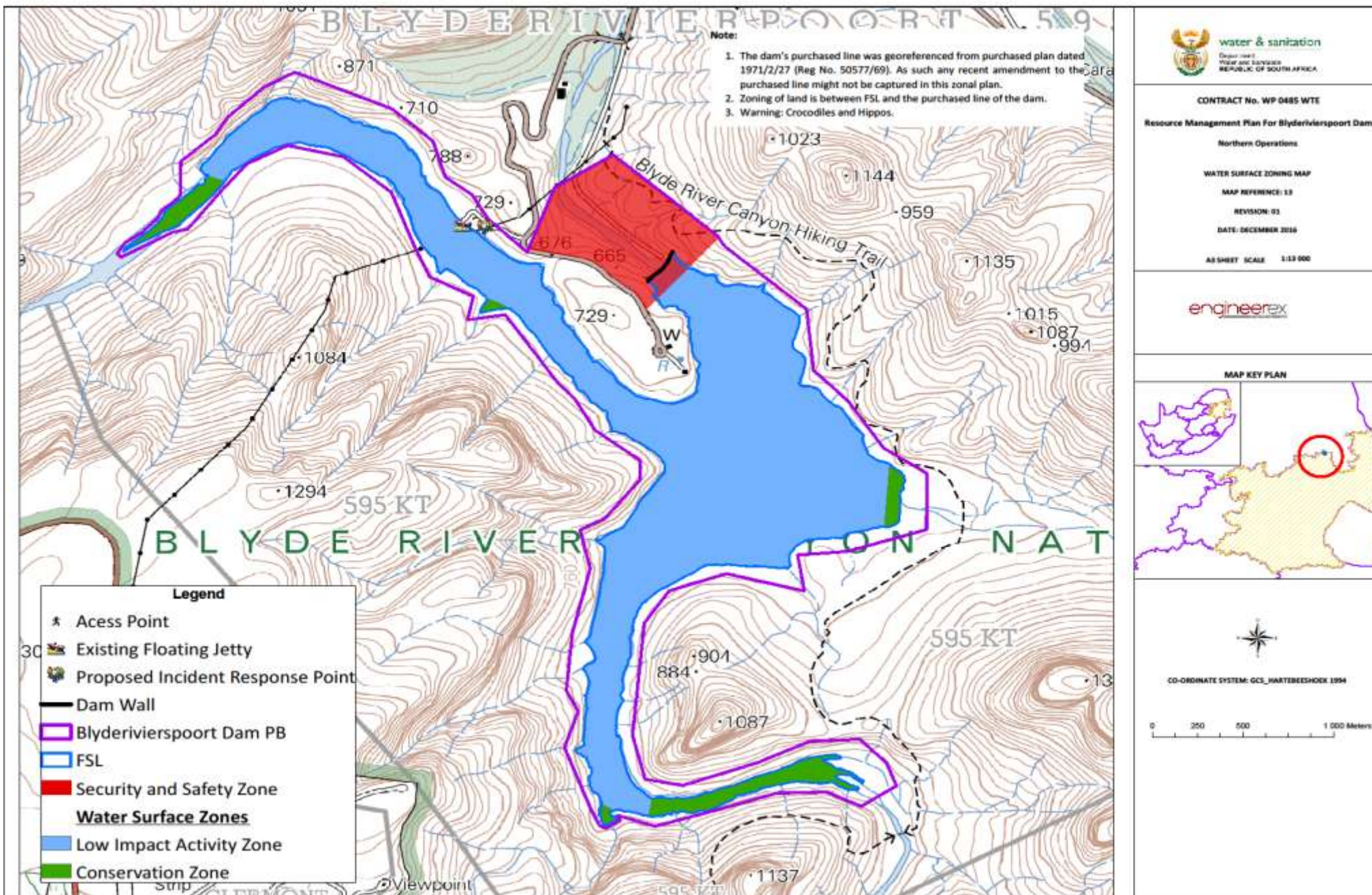


Figure 35: Proposed Water Surface Zoning Map

4.2.2 Shoreline Zoning⁴

In addition to the water surface zoning, an integral part of the RMP is also shoreline zoning, which provides guidance on what recreational activities (if any) are permissible and not permissible on the land adjacent to the dam (DWS purchased boundary). The management zones include:

Safety and Security Zone (dam wall and associated DWS infrastructure):

It is applicable to the area surrounding the dam wall and the outlet works. The extent of this zone is determined by DWS and shall not be less than 100m from the dam wall and downstream. This area is reserved for DWS management purposes.

Management of this zone is aimed at protecting the dam wall and outlet works, as well as to ensure the safety of the public and surrounding areas. This is a no-go zone to the public unless authorised.

Conservation / Low Density Activity Zone:

This zone consists of ecologically sensitive areas and areas with high biodiversity. It also includes the area around the inlets of the dam. Access to this area is limited to low impact activities such as hiking, bird watching, etc. This area is reserved to prevent ecological damage due to development activities hence high impact development not permitted.

Medium Density Activity Zone:

This area is reserved for small scale activities such as day visitors, picnic areas, shoreline fishing, camping (tent and caravan), braai facilities, swimming pools, ablution facilities and infrastructure for services.

High Density Activity Zone:

This area is reserved for large scale activities including chalets, recreational club houses, infrastructure for services, and Land Based Aquaculture.

Community Resource Zone:

This zone is for the sole beneficiation of the local communities in ensuring that their livelihood is maintained and improved. Activities include subsistence fishing, livestock watering points, small scale community gardens, etc.

The shoreline zoning colour coding means the following:

Colour	Zone Description
Red	Safety and Security Zone
Green	Conservation/ Low Density Activity Zone
Yellow	Medium Density Activity zone
Orange	High Density Activity Zone
Brown	Community Resource Zone

⁴ Permanent structures within the purchase line are not allowed. All developments should be outside 1:100 year floodline.

Table 16: Proposed Shoreline Zoning Description

Zone Name	Permissible Activities	Non-Permissible Activities	Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety and Security Zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire management Alien invasive species clearing. Management of dam infrastructure Management and maintenance activities by DWS and authorised personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum area of 100m wide downstream the dam wall should be demarcated preventing public access and use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation/ Low Density Activity Zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation management activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird watching Hiking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permissible activities may only be permitted provided that they are approved by relevant Authorities and they are conducted as per the relevant Legislations or Regulations, such as National Hiking Way Rules.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium Density Activity Zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mooring of cruise boat Camping (tent or caravan) Day visitors Ablution facilities Picnic areas Provincial competition hosted by MTPA to remove alien fish species from the dam. Infrastructure for services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent structures Chalets Recreational club houses Swimming pools Braai facilities Shoreline fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management of this area should follow PPP in terms of National Treasury. All developments must be approved by IA and DWS. Requirements of NWA and NEMA must be taken into account in all developments. All developments should have an approved Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to ensure construction does not impact on dam and must blend in with the natural environment. Camping and access to the water must be done in accordance to access agreements. Camping is allowed only in designated areas. Noise levels to be kept at a minimum. No littering at Camping spots.

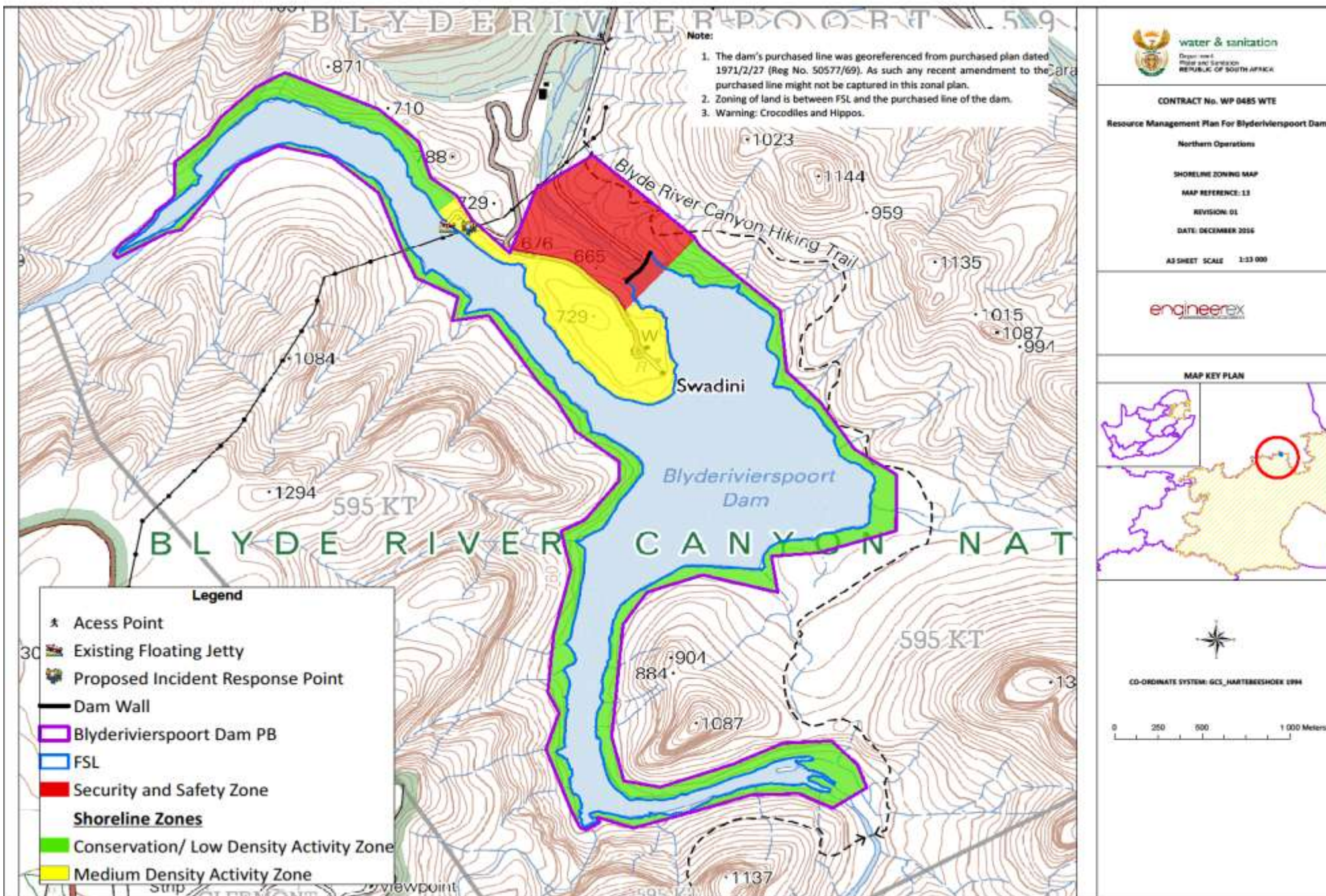


Figure 36: Proposed Shoreline Zoning Map

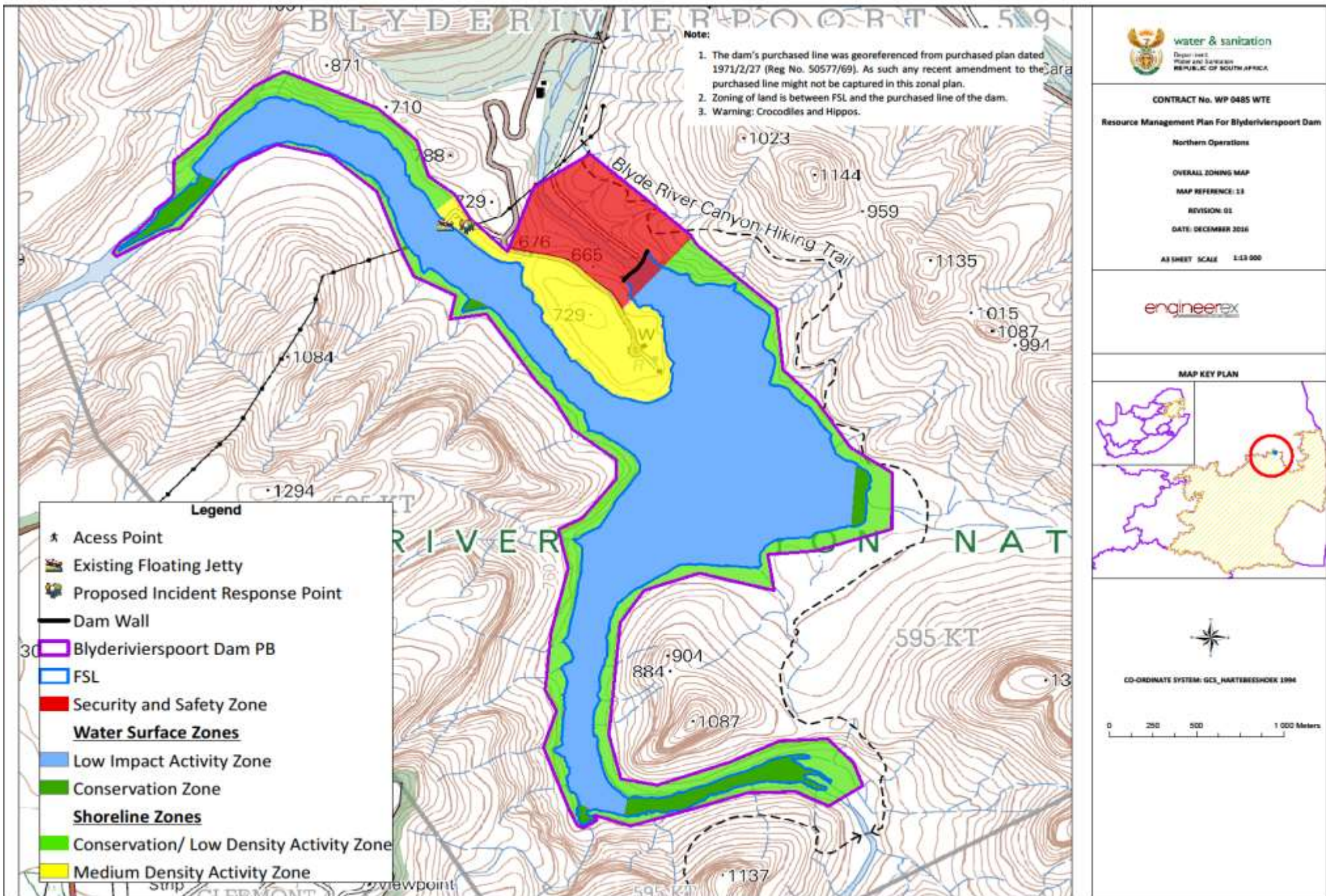


Figure 37: Proposed Overall Zoning Map

4.2.3 Carrying Capacity

Due to the uniqueness of the dam recreational activities are restricted. Floating restaurant will be subject to feasibility study.

In **Tables 17 – 19**, the Strategic Plan on how to achieve the identified objectives identified regarding the dam is outlined.

4.3 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan is informed by the objectives identified by stakeholders and through research on potential opportunities at the dam. The objectives are broken down into management fields which are listed below in a format offering ease of reference:

- Objective (What do we want?);
- Motivation (Why do we want to achieve this?);
- Action Projects (How do we achieve this?); and
- Management Support (Who will be involved?).

Table 17: Strategic Plan for KPA 1: Resource Management

KPA 1: Resource Management			
Objective (What do we want)	Motivation (Why do we want to achieve this)	Action Projects (How do we achieve this)	Management Support (Who will be involved)
<p><u>Alien Invasive Vegetation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have the Blyderivierspoort Dam free of alien invasive vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The invasive alien plant species such as Pines (<i>Pinus species</i>) and Black Wattles (<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>) have not been introduced into the dam basin as yet, however the largest portion of the BCNR which encompasses the dam is covered by the North-Eastern Mountain Sourveld. This vegetation is under severe threat from the spread of alien invasive species such as Pines and Black Wattles. Pines and Black Wattles are a threat to indigenous biodiversity and should be eradicated before becoming well established. Eradication should take place immediately upon discovery. Black Wattles and certain Pine trees usually have deep rooted systems that allow them to access reserves of water found deeper in the soil, which the shallower rooted grassland species cannot reach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove all invasive alien in the DWS's purchased boundary upon discovery. There has to be a Monitoring Plan developed to continuously monitor the occurrence of problem plants within the dam's purchased boundary. This will measure the effectiveness of the eradication method. Naturalize infested areas with suitable endemic species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and performing eradication should be incorporated with Working for Water (WfW) within DEA. Their involvement will assist in controlling and removing invasive species in the dam and its surrounding upon discovery. IA (MTPA) with the support of the DMC.
<p><u>Conservation of the dam and Surrounding Environment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve, preserve the tranquility of the dam and its beautiful surroundings e.g the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dam has become a major tourist attraction for its attractive view of the three (3) Roundavels and the Kadishi Tufa Waterfall etc. The dam also 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informing the I&APs through the environmental management awareness programmes about the value of the dam and the community involvement in ensuring sustainable use of the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness programmes regarding the utilization of the dam to be conducted by MTPA with the support of the DMC. I&APs should be guided to understand the objectives of

BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

KPA 1: Resource Management			
Objective (What do we want)	Motivation (Why do we want to achieve this)	Action Projects (How do we achieve this)	Management Support (Who will be involved)
three (3) Roundavels and the Kadishi Tufa Waterfall etc. Also to utilize the dam in a sustainable and appropriate manner to support current and future generation needs.	forms part of the striking view of the BCNR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the I&APs gain physical access to the dam and that they benefit from the water based recreation economy. This will encourage their contribution to the sustainability of the dam . Access should be equitable, friendly and safe. Through the Co-Management Committee in place, communities can become actively involved in the development projects aimed in further unlocking the potential of the dam. 	<p>NEMBA and NWA, also the purpose and extent to which the dam can be utilized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conservation of the Three (3) roundavels and Tufa Waterfall to be addressed in the MTPA IMP.
<p>Public Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote safety against hippo attacking patrons or tourists without apparent provocation and crocodile attacks in the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dam is a home to hippos and crocodile population which are widely considered as the dangerous animals. However, they pose danger to the tourists and patrons who access the dam. This has resulted in numerous drowning incidents and crocodile attacks in the past. Hippos are aggressive towards humans whom they commonly attack whether on land or on boats with no apparent provocation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During boat trips patrons should not dangle arms or legs off a boat into the water. Tourists/ patrons visiting the dam should take note of the safety boards with the information of prohibited activities in and around the dam No swimming activity should be allowed in the dam as there is existence of hippos and crocodiles which will cause fatal incidences. Boat trips are currently conducted late in the morning and early in the afternoon mainly to avoid disturbing the hippos. This routine should be an ongoing routine for boat trips. Boat trips should be avoided in areas where hippos are most likely to exist “ No Go Area”, because the rumbling of boat engines could aggravate the attacks in water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWS, with the support of IA (MTPA) and DMC Relevant Government Departments such as SAPS and SAMSA that are responsible for safety on the GWWs, resource management or dealing with safety in general within the state of South Africa must be consulted.

BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

KPA 1: Resource Management			
Objective (What do we want)	Motivation (Why do we want to achieve this)	Action Projects (How do we achieve this)	Management Support (Who will be involved)
		<p>especially if the hippos sense danger towards their calves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tourists/ visitors to the dam should not disturb the hippos when on the move to grazing areas. A relative distance should always be kept when these animals are spotted. 	
<p><u>Alien Fish Species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have the Blyderivierspoort Dam free of alien fish species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presence of alien fish species in the dam such as Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass and Rainbow Trout will be accompanied by habitat reduction for the indigenous fish, variety of diseases, and genetic modification to indigenous fish. Alien fish will predate on the native fish species resulting in the extinction of indigenous fish in the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an annual alien fish control provincial competition hosted by MTPA to remove alien fish species from the dam basin. Nets are used to capture these fish, any fish captured on the net that is not Bass or Trout is returned back into the water. Should a Bass or Trout be captured it is taken out of the water. The competition should be an ongoing routine of controlling alien fish as it is a fun activity and attracts visitors to the dam. The caught alien fish must be donated to local communities. A management strategy is needed to monitor and manage the impact of alien aquatic species in the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IA (MTPA) with the support of DMC, DAFF and DEA.

Table 18: Strategic Plan for KPA 2: Resource Utilization

KPA 2: Resource Utilisation			
Objective (What do we want)	Motivation (Why do we want to achieve this)	Action Projects (How do we achieve this)	Management Support (Who will be involved)
<p><u>Safety during Boating Activity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure safety in all aspects during boating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current boat trip is the only water sports that is allowed and conducted at the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The boat operators should ensure that, the boats complies to all aspects of SAMSA at all times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IA (MTPA) with the support of DMC to involve SAMSA in surveying the vessels and ensuring that they are sea worthy,

BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

KPA 2: Resource Utilisation			
Objective (What do we want)	Motivation (Why do we want to achieve this)	Action Projects (How do we achieve this)	Management Support (Who will be involved)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be a local response team established. 	Implementation of standardised and harmonised AtoN and Demarcation Markers. Also all other aspects of the CIWSP best practice model.
<u>Safety of navigation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve safety of navigation through the implementation of standardised and harmonised AtoN and demarcation markers as directed by SAMSA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no adequate standardised and harmonised AtoN and demarcation markers available on the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve safety of navigation through the implementation of standardised and harmonised AtoN and demarcation markers as directed by SAMSA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWS to facilitate the process. Agreements between SAMSA, IA (MTPA), DWS, LAAPs and other relevant parties to be concluded.

Table 19: Strategic Plan for KPA 3: Benefit Flow Management

KPA 3: Benefit Flow Management			
Objective (What do we want)	Motivation (Why do we want to achieve this)	Action Projects (How do we achieve this)	Management Support (Who will be involved)
<u>Job Opportunities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To uplift the local economy and increase benefit flows to the surrounding communities through employment upliftment opportunities, empowerment as well as social and education programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are conflicts arising amongst the four land claimants group when job opportunities arises. It is believed that the job opportunities should only benefit their individual groups without equitably sharing with other communal groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing co-management committee should ensure that a best approach is established on how local communities should equitably benefit from any job opportunities arising. The approach will assist in managing job allocation conflicts amongst the land claimants. Job opportunities arising should benefit all the land claimants groups and other locals and should be allocated fairly. Identify resources to be utilised for environmental education so that the environmental education can be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IA (MTPA) with the support of the DMC to strengthen community participation and beneficiation by ensuring that the communities are involved in the planning of projects relating to the dam.

BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

KPA 3: Benefit Flow Management			
Objective (What do we want)	Motivation (Why do we want to achieve this)	Action Projects (How do we achieve this)	Management Support (Who will be involved)
		<p>established and skills transferred to the locals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTPA must conduct a feasibility study to determine additional potential recreational and/ or commercial opportunities. 	
<p><u>Institutional Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have an effective and suitable organizational structure that will effectively manage the recreational utilization of the dam and its surrounding land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently MTPA administers the dam for recreational management. The recreational management structure comprises of MTPA only. However, other institutions such as Municipality Local/District, DEA, I&APs, SAMSA, etc. need to be considered in these structure as they can play a vital role in assisting to effectively manage the dam for recreational use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTPA to be appointed as the IA. • Roles and responsibilities of the IA to be clear and well defined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWS
<p><u>Tourism Potential:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To see that, the dam is recreationally marketed for long weekend destination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain the high standard of tourism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve media by inviting journalists to Swadini and afford them the opportunity to view the site, take a boat trip and compile and publish articles about the beautiful place and exciting experiences they had whilst visiting the dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IA (MTPA) with the support of DMC to increase publication of the dam by using the photos of the dam and current water activity as marketing material.

4.4 FINANCIAL PLAN

The RMP provides guidance on cost recovery mechanisms to ensure the sustained and improved management of the dam. There are opportunities for PPPs which could further unlock the economic potential of the dam. PPPs allows for DWS to make State Assets such as GWWs available to private parties who wish to engage in tourism related commercial operations (DWAF, 2009). PPPs should be established as per Regulation 16 of the National Treasury.

The dam is a state asset and as such all profits generated from the recreational use, should also be used to further develop the dam. People should not be denied access to the dam. All fees associated with the usage of the dam for recreation should take into account the socio-economic status of the users. The access fees should make a provision for equitable access.

The information acquired from the RMP will be used to produce the Business Plan based on the

action projects for each objective as stipulated under the Strategic Plan. However, many of the identified objectives are not of commercial nature and as such these non-economic objectives will not feature in the BP.

The BP provides a good description of possible economic recreational activities and the methods that can be used or enhanced to achieve the ultimate vision and the key objectives of Blyderivierspoort Dam RMP. It also describes the financial management and operational requirements to implement the Objectives of the RMP

The BP will include a Financial Plan (FP) which will facilitate the implementation of the RMP by providing implementation program cost estimate for all possible economic recreational activities.

WAY FORWARD

Once the RMP and its BP are approved by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, it will be published in the Government Gazette as a regulation in terms of Section 26 of the NWA.

Review of RMP

According to DWAF (2006), the RMP is reviewed and updated every five (5) years to ensure that the management objectives remains relevant and management actions are continually improved. The BP is updated annually. **Figure 38** illustrates the RMP & BP review framework.

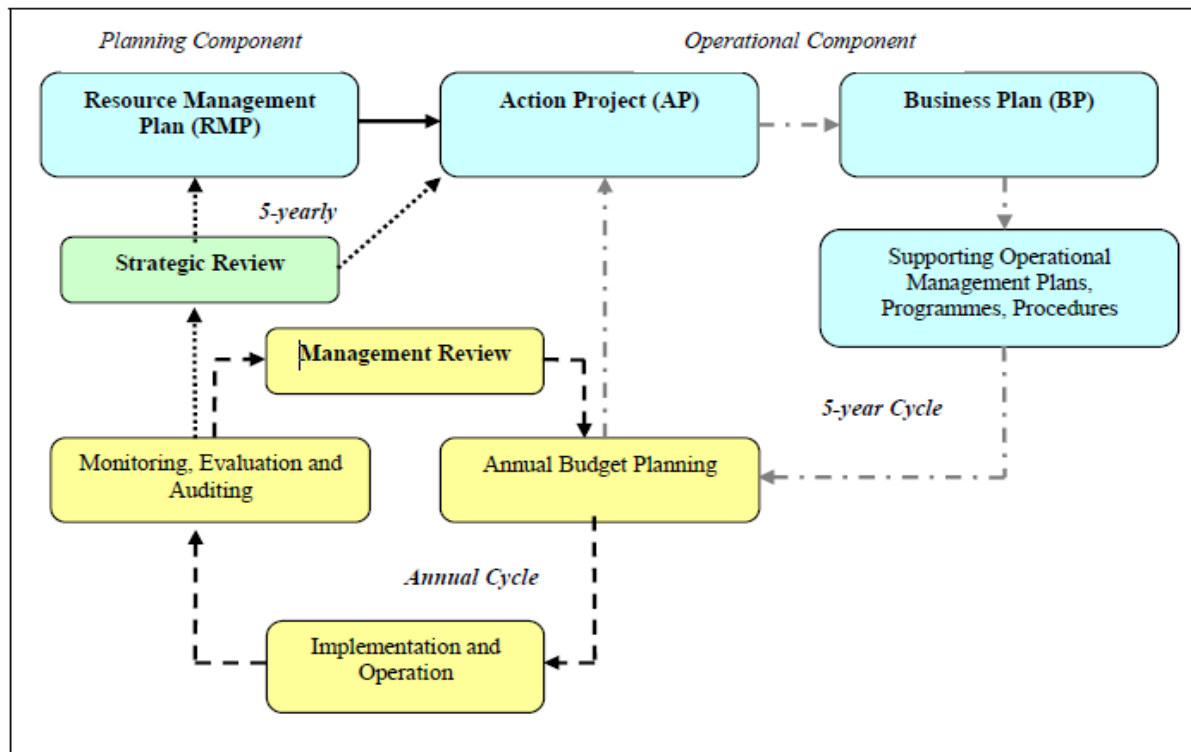


Figure 38: RMP and BP Review Framework

CONCLUSIONS

The RMP documents the challenges that exists within the Blyderivierspoort Dam that can significantly impact on the utilisation and management of the dam and it's surrounding for recreational purposes. Such factors include legal, biophysical, socio-economic, hydrological as well as access to the resource. These factors will assist DWS with the most appropriate approach to ascertain that the issues are addressed before the implementation of the RMP.

The RMP will assist in effectively managing the dam and its surrounding environment. Furthermore its function is to implement an **Institutional Plan** for the effective management of dam. The focus on Institutional Plan is accompanied by a **Zonal Plan** which provides guidance on potential activities that are allowed on the dam, together with a **Strategic Plan**. In addition, a **Financial Plan** will provide guidance

on funding requirements and funding options to implement the objectives of the RMP.

Furthermore the RMP promotes community participation and beneficiation, through Stakeholders engagement which were conducted to obtain common key objectives to be met by the RMP. The vision for the dam was formulated from the key common objectives identified by Stakeholders. Based on the strategic objectives identified for Blyderivierspoort Dam, a BP has been developed to describe a manner in which the potential recreational activities are to be financially resourced. Furthermore, by including the RMP in the Local Initiatives such as IDPs, LED, etc, can ensure effective co-operative governance as well as to provide necessary support with regards to the use of the dam for recreational purposes. Undertaken in this manner, it is believed that the potential of the water resource can be optimally unlocked in a sustainable and equitable manner.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

STAKEHOLDER'S DATABASE REGISTER

BLYDERIVERSPOORT DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN: AUTHORITIES DATABASE REGISTER

Name & Surname	Department	Designation	Contact Details	email
Department of Water and Sanitation				
Eric Mokoena	DWS	Resource Operating Manager	(0)76 580 9907	mokoenaer@gmail.com
Tsholofelo Sephoti	DWS	Northern Operations Champion	(0)82 652 9130/ (0)12 200 9014	sephotit@dws.gov.za
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Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency				
Bheki Eric Nkosi	MTPA	Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Manager	(0)72 167 2603	bhekiericnkosi@yahoo.com
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Theresa Moyo			(0)82 501 5056	theresa@mtpa.co.za
District Municipality				
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Local Municipality				
Dave Mkhabela	Thaba Chweu LM	Environmental Officer	(0)72 198 1335	dmkhabela@thabachweumun.gov.za
Akani Shabangu		Town Planner	(0)73 619 4911	akani90.as@gmail.com
Themba Mnisi		IDPManager	(0)71 360 9118	thembaberry@yahoo.com
Africa Ngomane		Technical	(0)82 700 8090	xikaya@vodamail.co.za
Cllr Susan Magagula		Speaker	(0)83 945 9395 / (0)86 255 7676	vmagagula@thabachweumun.gov.za
Cinderela Cave		LED Manager		ccave@thabachweumun.gov.za
Prince Nkuna		Manager: Speaker's office	(0)13 235 7300	christanoh@vodamail.co.za
Municipal Ward				
Cllr Suzan Enneth Molobela	Ward 8	Ward Councillor	(0)79 800 4354	Aubrey.kokoto@gmail.com

BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN: AUTHORITIES DATABASE REGISTER				
Name & Surname	Department	Designation	Contact Details	email
Department of Public Works (National and Provincial)				
Mr Morolo		Deputy Director General	(0)83 459 0751	morolo@mpg.gov.za
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Department of Environmental Affairs (Working for Water)				
Portia Mnisi	SanParks	Working for Water	(0)74 603 5516	mabulanep@gmail.com
Department of Transport (National and Provincial)				
Sakhile Jeff Fakude			(0)13 947 2311	jeff@mpg.gov.za
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (National and Provincial)				
Stemmer Ndala	Professional Services	Chief Director	(0)13 766 6155	ndalasm@mpg.gov.za
Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism				
Precious Ndlovu	Biodiversity			Fakazile66@gmail.com
Selby Hlatshwayo	Environmental Impact Management	Acting Director	(0)72 281 1751/(0)13 766 4852	shlatshwayo@mpg.gov.za
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Hlophe Thulani				thlophe@samsa.org.za
Mpumalanga South African Police Services - Water Wing				
Mr Johan Grobblelaar	Mpumalangs SAPS Water Wing	Captain	(0)82 449 5724	zindago@mailbox.co.za
Department of Water Affairs - Regional Office				
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				Chaukedt@eskom.co.za

BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN: I&APs DATABASE REGISTER

Name & Surname	Department	Designation	Contact Details	email
Adjacent Water Users				
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Thaba Tsweni Lodge & Safaris	Tourism		(0)83 9971034	thabatsweni@absamail.co.za
Graskop Business Tourism Forum	Tourism		(0)13 767 1886	tilla@tripssa.co.za - info@graskop.co.za
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Klays Mashile	Mahubahuba a Bokone CPA		(0)79 466 1541	N/A
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Sedibe Mabel	Maorabjang CPA		(0)73 770 4306	kamo.amk@gmail.com
Makofane Millicent	Maorabjang CPA		(0)74 444 2516	bashabane@gmail.com
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Lucy Mokone	Maorabjang CPA		(0)82 446 8231	pro2.o@webmail.co.za

APPENDIX B

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

DOCUMENT

(BID)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP) FOR THE BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM,
LOCATED NEAR HOEDSPRUIT, SITUATED WITHIN THABA CHWEU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE
EHLANZENI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT
(BID)

Project Reference Number: ENGX/1403 RMP

July 2014



Compiled by:

Engineerex (Pty) Ltd

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Prepared for:

The Department of Water Affairs

Private Bag x313

Pretoria, 0001

Tel: 012 336 7500

Fax: 012 324 6592



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

1. Purpose of the Document and Project Background

The **Background Information Document (BID)** aims to inform the Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) and Key Stakeholders on what the Resource Management Plan (RMP) entails and the objective of the RMP process. Moreover, it invites input and participation from key stakeholders and I&AP's on the development of the RMP. Furthermore it provides contact details for Engineerex (Pty) Ltd for future engagements in the RMP process. Engineerex (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as Professional Services Provider by the Department of Water affairs to undertake the development of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) including its supporting Business Plan for Blyderivierspoort Dam.

The Blyderivierspoort Dam is situated in Ward 8, within the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, under Ehlanzeni District Municipality in Mpumalanga Province. It is located within the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve (see locality maps attached in **Appendix A: Topographic Map and Google Earth Map**) and impounds the Blyde and the Ohrigstad River. Adjacent land uses surrounding the dam include Nature Reserve, Resorts, Adventure Centres and Lodges.

The Blyderivierspoort Dam has become a tourist attraction for its scenic view of the Three (3) Roundavels, God's Window, the Pinnacle, and the Tufa waterfall etc. Interpretation Boat/ Cruise trip was the only water activity identified during the site inspection as shown in **picture 1**. However there are restrictions of other water activities on and around the dam as illustrated in **picture 2**:



Picture 1 :Interpretation Boat / Cruise Trip



Picture 2 :Restrictions of other Water Activities

Due to the Wave Actions in the Blyde Dam, excessive Boats in the Dam are not permitted .Water Activities such as Canoeing, Jet Skiing are also not permitted in the dam as it is envisaged that the Tranquillity of the Dam and its surrounding will be disturbed in terms of the Noise. The Water in the Blyde is clean and the depth is very deep, not much of fish is produced to allow anglers to Fish. There's Hippo and Crocodile family present in the dam, thus Kayaking, and Canoeing will not be safe.

The RMP will come up with plans that will guide how the dam can be used to benefit the adjacent users, protect the environment and keep the dam in a good condition so as to maintain its primary purpose.

2. Purpose of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Project Overview

RMP is a plan which aims to manage the utilization of water resource and its surrounding environment in ways which promote community participation and beneficiation, environmental sustainability and to unlock the socio-economic potential of the water resource for recreational use. To manage a water resource sustainably, an RMP should include amongst other things; an integrated environmental management plan, functional institutionalization, and zoning maps.

The resultant approved Blyderivierspoort Dam RMP will be gazetted into a law. This will be used to manage what type of development is allowed around the dam basin, and which activities are feasible on the water resource. Sensitive and no-go areas will also be demarcated. The Blyderivierspoort Dam RMP will be developed looking at the objectives underlying sustainable development.

3. Need and Desirability

A number of factors have been identified by the Department of Water Affairs which drove the need to compile the RMPs. Such factors include:

- Access Control – safety notice boards stating “dangerous or no go areas” not visible.
- Public Safety – there were drowning incidents that occurred in the past.
- To regulate the development capacity within the dam basin, as well as to unlock the economic potential of the Blyderivierspoort Dam.
- To integrate Blyderivierspoort dam in the local municipal and development plans and policies such as Integrated Development Plan, Environmental Management Framework, Spatial Development Framework, etc.

4. RMP Procedure

The process consists of 7 phases as illustrated below in Figure1:

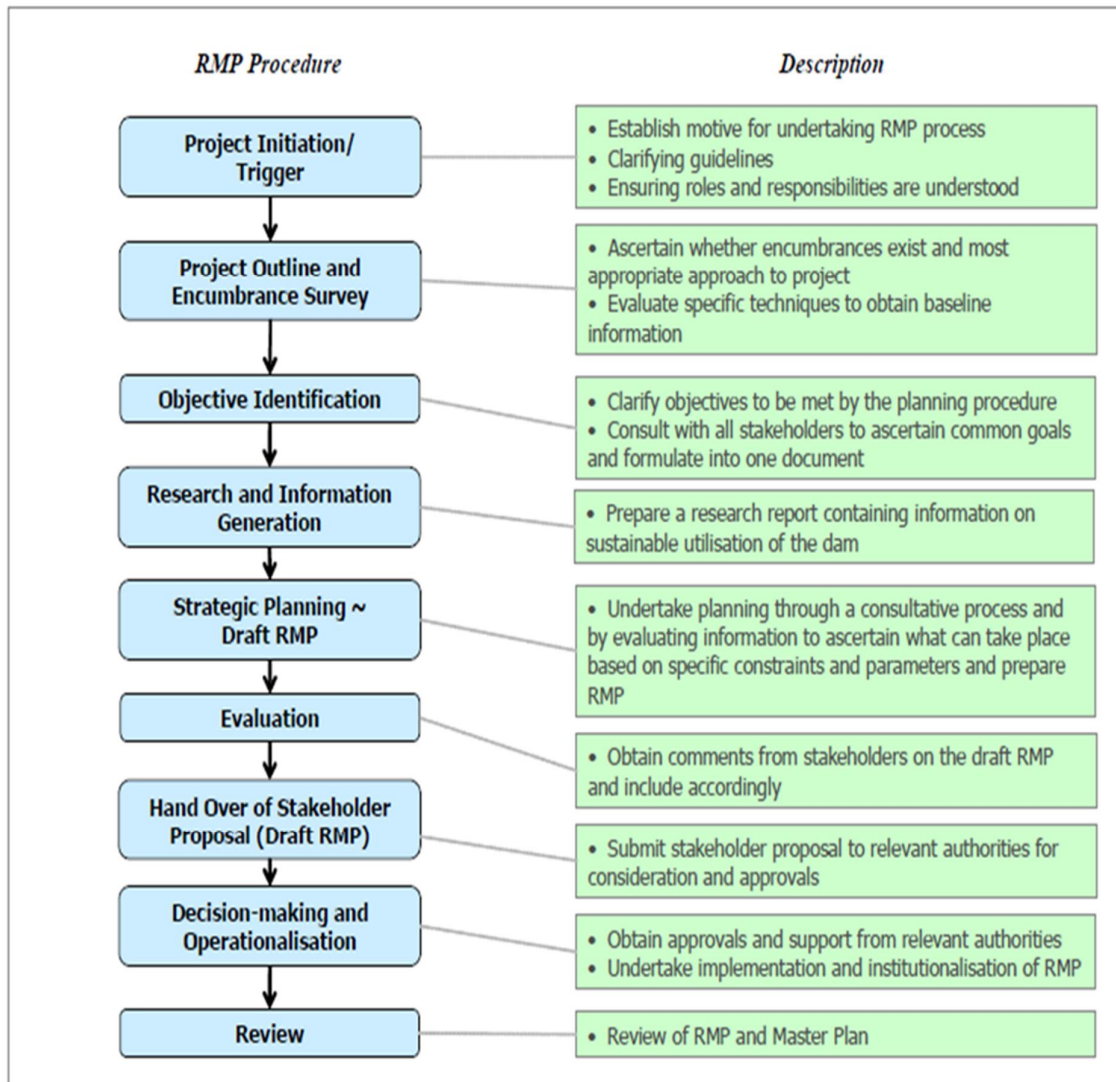


Figure 1: RMP Process Phases

5. Becoming Involved in the RMP Process:

- A. **OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE:** All Interested and Affected Parties *especially water users adjacent to the dam which includes: Forever Resorts Swadini, Forever Resorts Blyde Canyon, Graskop Business Tourism Forum, Blyde Canyon Adventure Centre, and Thaba Tsweni Lodge & Safaris* are invited to a public meeting to voice out any matters, share key information and allow them to participate in the development of the RMP. There will be two (2) meetings (the **Authority meeting** and a **Public meeting**) which will be held as follows:
- The Authority Meeting**
 - Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Auditorium, 22 July 2014 at **10h00am – 12h00pm**
 - The Public Meeting**
 - Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Auditorium, 22 July 2014 at **17h00pm – 19h00pm**

- B. PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT RMP REPORT:** Following the Public Meeting, a Draft RMP Report will be compiled and distributed for comments. Registered I&AP's will be notified in writing of the dates during which this Report will be made available for public Review, as well as the venues on where this Report can be reviewed



BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS
I&AP REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FORM	
Name:	
Surname	
Address:	
Postal Code:	
TEL No:	
Fax No:	
Cell No:	
e-mail :	
Comments: (add extra pages should you need)	
Do you require any additional information?	
Other parties which you think should be included in the process:	

Your comments are highly appreciated, and will be included in the draft and final reports to be submitted to the decision-making authorities.

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN (21 July 2014) TO:

Helen Mthimkhulu

Engineerex (pty) Ltd

P.O Box 12107

Die Hoewes, 0163

Tel: 012 667 1085

Fax: 086 605 6186

Email: helen@engineerex.co.za

Thank you for your Contribution

Appendix A: Locality Maps

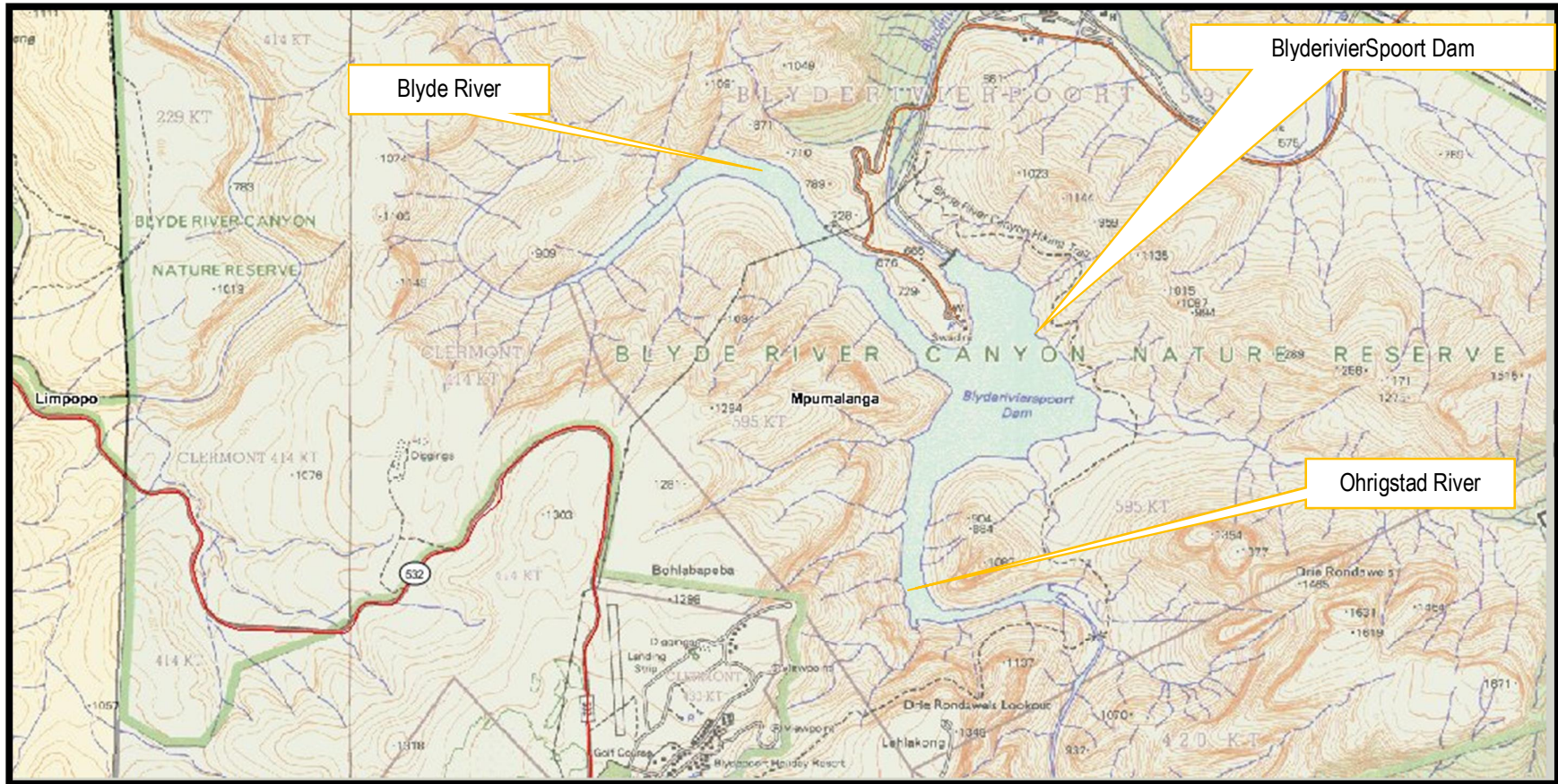


Figure 2: Topographical Map¹

¹ AGIS ATLAS VIEWER V3.3 2009

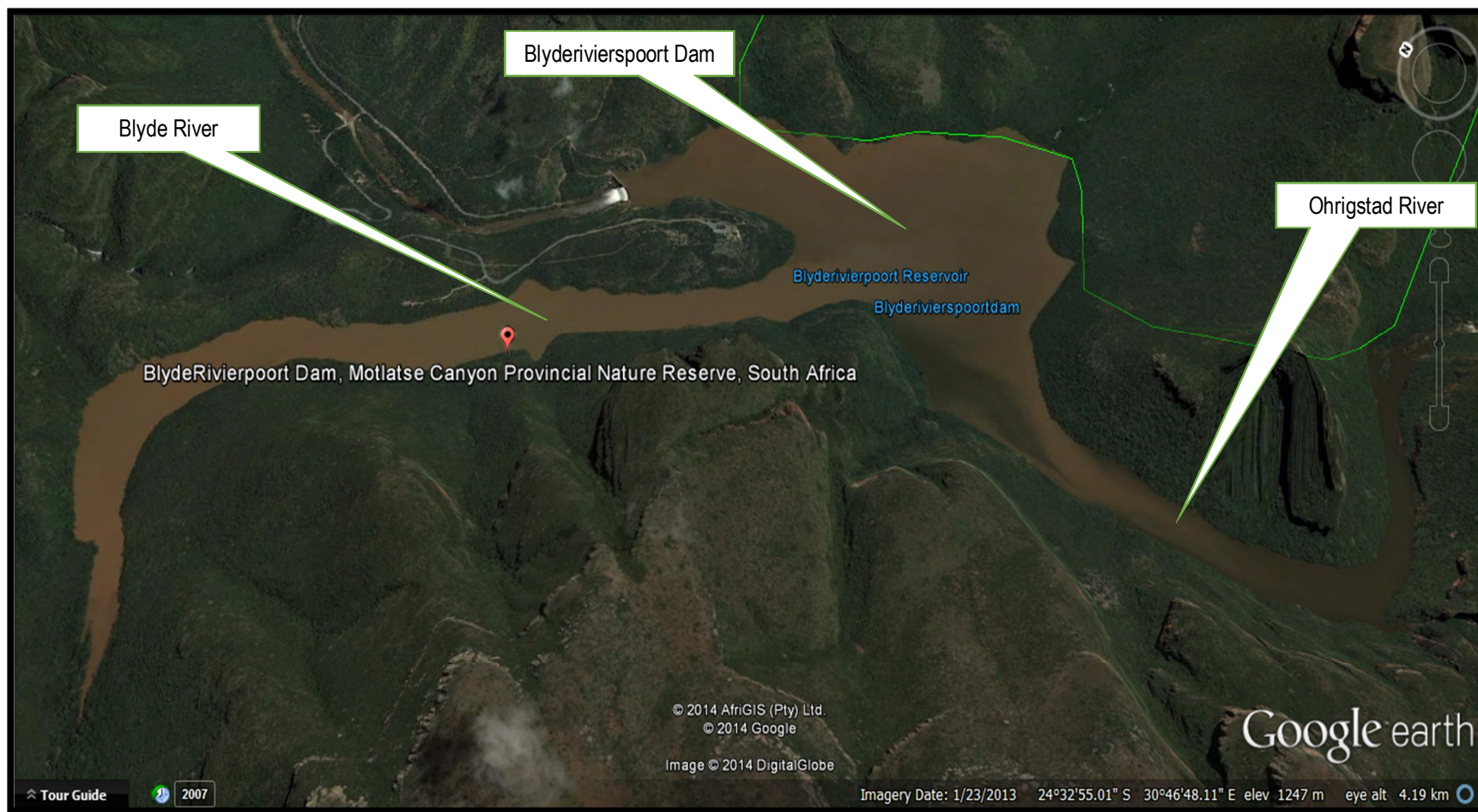


Figure 3: Google Earth Aerial Map; 01/23/13

APPENDIX C

NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

Hlokomela recognises Nompilos' efforts

Desiré Wright

HOEDSPRUIT – On 11 December 2015, Hlokomela once again recognised the hard work and dedication of its care givers and peer educators (Nompilos) at the annual Nompilo awards ceremony at Blyde Clubhouse.

Hlokomela, an award winning HIV and AIDS educational and treatment programme that targets workers in the agriculture, nature conservation and tourism sectors in Hoedspruit, has 94 Nompilos. Nompilos are people who work on farms, at lodges or at HIV/AIDS hotspots such as informal markets and bus stops. They receive monthly training from Hlokomela on topics including healthy lifestyles, condom use, human rights and home based care, to name but a few. The Nompilos use this training to educate their co-workers or clients whom they also encourage to take their antiretroviral medication and refer them to Hlokomela's clinics for medical treatment when necessary.

Nompilos perform their day jobs but also work very hard for their co-workers and Hlokomela. The awards celebrated care givers and peer educators who went the extra



Nompilo of the Year, Jane Ndlovu

mile in 2015.

For her dedication, participation, good communication with the organisation and uninterrupted attendance of Hlokomela meetings and events, Jane Ndlovu was declared Nompilo of the Year. Jane works at the hotspots in Hoedspruit. Closely following on her heels in second place was Elizabeth Mathebula, who also works at local hotspots. In third place was Sarah Retse from New Dawn farm who was chosen because of the unwavering dedication she showed in taking care of a fellow worker over many months until he finally passed away.

‘Thank you to all our Nompilos for the hard work you did in 2015. We hope that you will continue on this path in 2016’ says Christine du Preez, Project Director.



Seen here all three winners of the 2015 Nompilo Awards; Elizabeth Mathebula (2nd), Jane Ndlovu (1st) and Sarah Retse (3rd).

INVITATION TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP): BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: ENGX/1403 RMP

Engineerex (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to undertake the development of a RMP and associated Business Plan for the Blyderivierspoort Dam. A RMP is a plan which provides guidance on how the dam can be utilised and managed for recreational purposes, in ways which promote community participation and beneficiation, environmental sustainability and to unlock the socio-economic potential of the water resource.

The dam is located in Ward 8 within Ehlanzeni District Municipality under Thaba Chweu Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE: All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to attend the **Public Meeting** where the Draft RMP will be presented.

The Public Meetings will be held as follows:

Meeting Type	Date	Time	Venue
Public Participation Meetings	09 February 2016	16:00 – 18:00	Hlokomela Community Hall (Hoedspruit)
	10 February 2016	10:00 – 12:00	Hippo Hollow Country Estate R40 Mpumalanga 1242 (Hazyview)

PUBLIC REVIEW:

The Draft RMP document will be available for review at **Blyde Adventure Centre Reception, Swadini Forever Resorts Reception, Blyde River Canyon Lodge Reception and Swadini Security Gate No.1** as from **21 January 2016** until **10 February 2016**. Should you have any comments/inputs, kindly forward them to the contact details below:

Ms. Helen Mthimkhulu

Engineerex (Pty) Ltd. Fax: 012 664 1165
Tel: 012 664 1180 Email: helen@engineerex.co.za



water & sanitation

Department
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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three bridges

A circular logo featuring a stylized face with a large nose and a wide smile. The face is surrounded by a decorative border.

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all hand made in africa

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-10%
ON EVERYTHING
10am-6pm

A collection of handcrafted items including jewelry, bags, and home decor. The items are displayed on a wooden table.

VACANCY

Private nature reserve is looking for the services of a driver, previous tractor driving experience a bonus. This is a live-in position, accommodation & uniform provided. Requirements, no criminal record, valid driver's licence, resident in the Acornhoek to The Oaks region.

Private nature reserve is looking for a workshop assistant. This is a live-in position, accommodation & uniform provided. Requirements, no criminal record, valid driver's licence, previous workshop experience essential, resident in the Acornhoek to The Oaks region.

Please forward CV's to Fax 015 793 0432 or email applications.nts@gmail.com

Education – the weapon of change

HOEDSPRUIT – 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' These powerful words come from our beloved Madiba, Nelson Mandela.

The only way to achieve long term, sustainable positive change and to address the issues of poverty and unemployment is to provide our people with an education that gives them the skills and knowledge to become productive members of our society.

Unfortunately, many of our fellow South Africans do not yet have access to educational opportunities that will bring about the change that is needed. The task of providing such opportunities seems to rest more and more with NGOs and private institutions despite vast sums of our national budget being earmarked for this purpose.

Thanks to substantial funding received from various corporate

donors, trust funds and private foundations, Southern Cross Schools has been able to successfully run its Reach-a-Cross Community Partnership Programme for a number of years now. Reach-a-Cross focuses on providing educational support to local teachers and learners with the aim of improving the quality of education being delivered in the schools surrounding Hoedspruit. The specific focus for the past five years or so has been on curriculum support in critical subjects like Mathematics, Physical Science and English.

In addition to monthly Saturday morning educator curriculum support workshops, holiday and Saturday classes are also offered to Grade 10, 11 and 12 learners from four partner schools. Just on a hundred learners from Lekete, Masingitana, Mdizi and Phendulani high schools were bussed from their homes to Southern Cross Schools for

expert lessons from June 30 to July 4. This holiday school will be followed up by fortnightly Saturday morning classes for the remainder of the year, leading up to the end of year examinations.

'After four years of similar holiday classes, we were very pleased with the improvement in results achieved by the 2013 Grade 12 participants in the programme,' says Southern Cross Schools headmaster, Ant de Boer, when asked whether the programme is yielding positive results.

'Learners who have participated for all three years from Grade 10 to Grade 12 have shown an approximate 20% improvement in their exam results in all three subjects' says Ant. 'This is significant and has meant the difference between being eligible to access tertiary studies or not' he continues.

Bernard Ncube, the current Reach-a-Cross coordinator and

Mathematics facilitator, points out that the holiday and Saturday school programme isn't there to cover the whole curriculum. 'Teachers in the schools must cover the syllabus,' says Bernard. 'We will help learners to apply their knowledge and teach them how to deal with the more challenging aspects of the subject'.

The task of transforming our society, empowering our youth and ultimately eradicating poverty seems an almost impossible one. But we must take note of another piece of Madiba wisdom when tackling this enormous task, as he put it: 'It always seems impossible until it is done.'

For more info or if you would like to contribute in some way, please contact Mitzi van Rensburg at raptor@scschools.co.za or on 079 494 2373.



Learners from four of Southern Cross Schools' partner schools assemble before the start of the holiday classes run by the school's Reach-a-Cross Community Partnership Programme.

Phenomenal prizes to be won at SCS PA Golf Day fundraiser

HOEDSPRUIT – Southern Cross School Parent Association is holding their annual PA Golf Day to raise funds for school infrastructure on August 30. The cost for the golf day for individual players is R700 and includes a fabulous goodie bag. Caddies are available at own cost. This has always been a popular event but this year is set to be the best yet, with some phenomenal prizes up for grabs in the Four Ball Alliance.

The first prize is a night's stay for four people at the Legend Golf & Safari Resort. The championship course situated on the Legend Golf & Safari Resort was designed by 18 of the world's top golfers and provides one of Africa's most spectacular game and golf experiences. The prize includes one round of golf for four people on the Signature Course with cart and halfway house fees. The accommodation is for four people sharing in two rooms including breakfast. This amazing experience is valued at R11 400.

Legends is famous for its Extreme 19th hole, which can be experienced as an optional extra. Extreme 19th is the world's longest par three which is only accessible by helicopter and provides the best golfing view of all time – African bushveld stretching as far as the eye can see, and nestling at the foot of the mountain is the green, contoured and shaped like Africa.

Second prize is a night for a party of ten at Djuma Game Reserve,

Galago Lodge valued at R19 500 and there are a number of other fantastic prizes up for grabs.

The Parent Association is looking for sponsors who can assist by donating prizes or items to be put in the players' hampers. Sponsors are also sought for purchasing tee or green sponsorships which vary in price from R2500 to R4500. Sponsors are free to advertise however they like at their green and a prize will be awarded to the most fun and creative green advertising activity. Payments for sponsorship can be made into the PA Bank Account Hoedspruit FNB 62151661892 Branch no 270652 and email proof of payment to Kerry@bushguru.co.za.

The prize giving is always festive and non-playing partners are encouraged to attend the event which will be held at the halfway house. There will be a cash bar and in addition to the fantastic prizes for the golfers there are several raffles and competitions.

Four Balls for this golf day have been snapped up very quickly in previous years so you are encouraged to book now to avoid disappointment. To secure your place as a player and/or sponsor please contact Rodney Wall on Rodney@ecosteps.co.za or Cell 073 510 5533 or Sharon Haussmann on 082 465 2292.

INVITATION TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP): BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM Project Reference Number: ENGX/1403 RMP

BACKGROUND AND LOCATION: Engineerex (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as Professional Services Provider by the Department of Water Affairs to undertake the development of the RMP including its supporting Business Plan for the Blyderiverspoort Dam. RMP process is designed to address resource management, community beneficiation and industry transformation and also to attain the objectives of section (2) of the National Water Act, (Act No. 36 of 1998).

The Dam is located in Mpumalanga Province within Thaba Chweu Local Municipality in Ehlanzeni District Municipality.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE: All Interested and Affected Parties are invited to a public meeting that will be held at the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Auditorium on Tuesday, 22 July 2014 from 17h00 to 19h00 to share information and to allow I& APs to participate in the development of RMP.

For more information, or to confirm your attendance please contact:

Ms Helen Mthimkhulu: Engineerex (Pty) Ltd,
P.O. Box 12107, Die Hoewes, 0163
Tel: 012 667 1085 | Fax: 086 605 6186
Email: helen@engineerex.co.za



Saturday 30th August 2014, Drakensig

Southern Cross Schools Golf Day

You are cordially invited to join us at our annual SOUTHERN CROSS SCHOOLS GOLF DAY in the capacity as a Player and/or Sponsor.

The event is a fund raiser.

Sponsorship & Playing Spaces are confirmed on a "first paid – first confirmed" basis.

Time: 07h00 registration, 08h00 Tee Off - shotgun start Game: American Scramble (Drives Only), Four Ball Alliance (2 Scores to count on all the holes except the Par 3's where all 4 scores to be counted)

To book your place please contact:

Rodney Wall: rodney@ecosteps.co.za / 073 510 5533
Sharon Haussmann : 082 465 2292 / 015 001 7079

APPENDIX D

FLYERS

**INVITATION TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
(RMP):BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM: PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: ENGX/1403 RMP**

Engineerex (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to undertake the development of a RMP and associated Business Plan for the Blyderivierspoort Dam. A RMP is a plan which provides guidance on how the dam can be utilised and managed for recreational purposes, in ways which promote community participation and beneficiation, environmental sustainability and to unlock the socio-economic potential of the water resource. The dam is located in Ward 8 within Ehlanzeni District Municipality under Thaba Chweu Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE: All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to attend the **Public Meetings** where the Draft RMP will be presented.

The Public Meetings will be held as follows:

Meeting Type	Name of CPA	Date	Time	Venue
Public Participation Meetings	Mahubahuba a Bokone	23 April 2016	09:00 – 11:00	Moreipusho
	Setlhare & Moletele	23 April 2016	12:00 – 13:00	Setlhare T/A
	Moletele	24 April 2016	09:00 – 11:00	Scortia ga Mongatane
	Maorabjang	24 April 2016	12:00 – 13h00	Potholes

Should you have any enquiries, kindly forward them to the contact details below:

Ms. Helen Mthimkhulu

Engineerex (Pty) Ltd.

Tel: 012 664 1180

Fax: 012 6641165

Email: helen@engineerex.co.za



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**INVITATION TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP): BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM:
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: ENGX/1403 RMP**

Engineerex (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to undertake the development of a RMP and associated Business Plan for the Blyderivierspoort Dam. A RMP is a plan which provides guidance on how the dam can be utilised and managed for recreational purposes, in ways which promote community participation and beneficiation, environmental sustainability and to unlock the socio-economic potential of the water resource.

The dam is located in Ward 8 within Ehlanzeni District Municipality under Thaba Chweu Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE: All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to attend the **Public Meeting** where the Draft RMP will be presented.

The Public Meetings will be held as follows:

Meeting Type	Date	Time	Venue
Public Participation Meetings	09 February 2016	16:00 – 18:00	Hlokomela Community Hall (Hoedspruit)

PUBLIC REVIEW:

The Draft RMP document will be available for review at **Blyde Adventure Centre Reception, Swadini Forever Resorts Reception, Blyde River Canyon Lodge Reception and Swadini Security Gate No.1** as from **21 January 2016** until **10 February 2016**. Should you have any comments/inputs, kindly forward them to the contact details below:

Ms. Helen Mthimkhulu

Engineerex (Pty) Ltd.

Tel: 012 664 1180

Fax: 012 664 1165

Email: helen@engineerex.co.za



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**INVITATION TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
PLAN (RMP): BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM.
Project Reference Number: ENGX/1403 RMP**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: Engineerex (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as Professional Services Provider by the Department of Water Affairs to undertake the development of the RMP including its supporting Business Plan for the Blyderivierspoort Dam. RMP will come up with plans that will guide how the dam can be used to benefit the local recreational users and to protect the environment while keeping the dam in good condition so as to maintain its primary purpose.

The dam is situated in the Mpumalanga Province within the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality under Ehlanzeni District Municipality.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE: All Interested and Affected Parties are invited to a public meeting Parties **especially water users adjacent to the dam which include: Forever Resorts Swadini, Forever Resorts Blyde Canyon, Graskop Business Tourism Forum, Blyde Canyon Adventure Centre, and Thaba Tsweni Lodge & Safaris** that will be held at **Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Auditorium** on **Tuesday, 22 July 2014** from **17h00 to 19h00** to voice out any matters or issues and to allow I &AP's to participate in the development of the RMP

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE PLEASE CONTACT:

Helen Mthimkhulu, Enginnerex (Pty) Ltd,
PO Box 12107, Die Hoewes, 0163
Tel No: 012 6671085
Fax No: 086 605 6186
E-mail: helen@engineerex.co.za



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



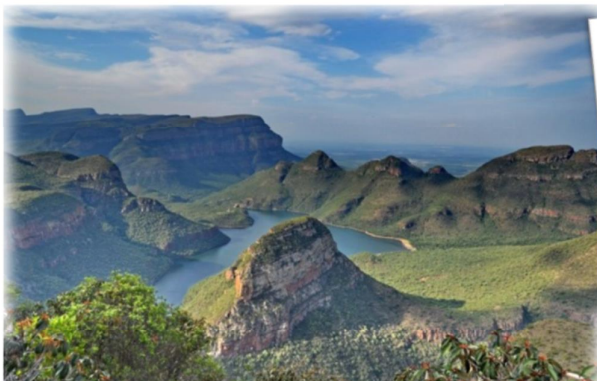
The Blyderiverspoort Dam is within the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve and has become a tourist attraction for its scenic view of the Three (3) Roundavels, God's Window, the Pinnacle and the Tufa waterfall etc. Interpretation Boat / Cruise trip was the water activity identified during the site inspection. However there are some water activities restricted on and around the dam due to the presence of Hippos and crocodiles as shown below:



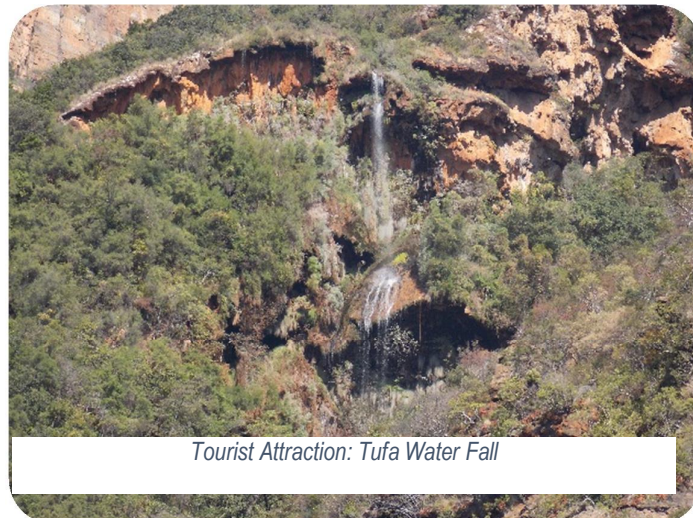
Interpretation Boat/Cruise Trips



Restricted Water Activities– the Dam has Hippos and Crocodiles.



Tourist Attraction: God's Window and the 3 Roundavels



Tourist Attraction: Tufa Water Fall

**TALETŠO GO SETŠHABA GO TŠEA KAROLO TLHABOLLONG YA PEAKANYO YA TŠHUMIŠO YA DIDIRIŠWA: LETAMONG
LA BLYDERIVIERSPOORT: NOMORO YA PROJEKE: ENG/1403 RMP**

TLHALOSO LE LEFELO LA PROJEKE: Engineerex (Pty) Ltd e kgethilwe bjale ka moaba ditirelo wa bokgoni ke Lefapa la Meetse le Kelela Tzhila go tswetza pele tlhabollo ya lenaneo la go hlokomela di dirizwa le dikarolo tza tlhago tza letamo la Blyderivierspoort, go akaretza le lenaneo la mazeleng go kgonthizisa gore Projeke e tswetswa pele ka mokgwa wowe o zwanetzego. Lenaneo la go hlokomela di dirizwa le dikarolo tza tlhago le tlile go tla le mekgwa yeo Letamo le la Blyderivierspoort le swanetze go zumizwa ka gona go ka hola badudi ba kgauswi le letamo le go zireletza tlhago gore letamo le kgone go zumizetwa morero kgolo wa lona e le go abele badudi meetse.

Letamo le le hwetswa Provenseng ya Mpumalanga ka gare ga Masepala wa Thaba Chweu mo Distriking ya Ehlanzeni.

MENYETLA YA GO TSEYA KAROLO: Kamoka bao banalego le kgahlego le bao ba amegago ba mengwa kopanong ya setzhaba go tlo tswetza maikutlo a bona, le go obelana dikgopolo tze bohlokwa le go dumelwa go tze ya karolo tswetzweng pele ya lenaneo le. Go tla le dikopano tza setzhaba tze nne tze ditla swarwago ka tsela eo elatelo:

- ❖ **Kopano Kgothe Kgothe ya Mathomo ya Mahubahuba a Bokone – Moreipusho, 23 April 2016 ka 09h00 – 11h00 (Mesong);**
- ❖ **Kopano Kgothe Kgothe ya Bobedi ya Setlhare le Moletete – Setlhare Traditional Authority, 23 April 2016 ka 12h00 – 13h00 (Mosegare);**
- ❖ **Kopano Kgothe Kgothe ya Boraro ya Moletete – Scortia ga Mongatane, 24 April 2016 ka 09h00 – 11h00 (Mesong);**
- ❖ **Kopano Kgothe Kgothe ya Bone ya Maorabjang – Potholes, 24 April 2016 ka 12h00 – 13h00 (Mosegare).**

Go hwetša dintlha ka botlalo, goba go kgonthišiša goba gona, ikopanye le:

Ms. Helen Mthimkhulu

Engineerex (Pty) Ltd.

Tel: 012 664 1180

Fax: 012 6641165

Email: helen@engineerex.co.za



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APPENDIX E

ELECTRONIC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT INVITATIONS

Helen Mthimkhulu

Subject: Resource Management Plan for Blyderivierspoort Dam Authorities Meeting
Location: Swadini Auditorium (Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve)

Start: Fri 22/04/2016 12:00 PM
End: Fri 22/04/2016 02:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Helen Mthimkhulu
Required Attendees: mokoenaer@gmail.com; bhekiericnkosi@yahoo.com; marinda@mtpa.co.za; fbronkhorst@telkomsa.net; phumzileluciakhoza@yahoo.com; calvin@mtpa.co.za; christinaseleman@gmail.com; busisiwe@mtpa.co.za; dumyblyde@gmail.com; zandilem@mtpa.co.za; nomcebos@mtpa.co.za; theresa@mtpa.co.za; dmabena@ledc.co.za; dmkhabela@thabachweumun.gov.za; akani90.as@gmail.com; thembaberry@yahoo.com; xikaya@vodamail.co.za; vmagagula@thabachweumun.gov.za; ccave@thabachweumun.gov.za; conf.sekgobela@gmail.gov.za; Aubrey.kokoto@gmail.com; morolo@mpg.gov.za; SANKosi@ruraldevelopment.gov.za; mabulanep@gmail.com; jeff@mpg.gov.za; ndalasm@mpg.gov.za; Fakazile66@gmail.com; shlatshwayo@mpg.gov.za; thlophe@samsa.org.za; zindago@mailbox.co.za; vanAnswegenJ@dwa.gov.za; bothame@eskom.co.za; Chaukedt@eskom.co.za; Irene Rampoto; Azwinndini Tshikhudo; sephotiT@dws.gov.za; Nhlabathi Steven; Nkangala Waterwing : Co-ordinator; CAPTAIN JC POTGIETER.; Marinda Marais; christanoh@vodamail.co.za

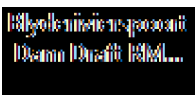
Good day all,

You are hereby invited to attend the **Authorities Meeting** for the development of Blyderivierspoort Dam Resource Management Plan (RMP). The main purpose of the meeting is to present the draft RMP developed for the dam.

The meeting will be held at **Swadini Auditorium (Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve not the POTHOLEs)** on **22 April 2016 at 12:00 pm to 14:00 pm.**

Physical Address:

Swadini Auditorium (Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve) Not the **POTHOLEs**.



Attached is the soft copy of the draft RMP for review. Hard copies of the draft RMP Report are also available for review and comments at the **Blyde Adventure Centre (Swadini), Swadini Forever Resorts Reception, Blyde River Canyon Lodge Reception and Swadini Security Gate No.1.**

Kindly be advised that the comment period of the draft RMP commenced on **21 January 2016** and will lapse on **22 April 2016**. Should you have any comments/inputs you may forward them to the contact details below.

Should you encounter any difficulties in accessing the document, please feel free to inform me. We appreciate your input in the process and look forward to your continued interest in the RMP.

Regards,

Helen Mthimkhulu
Junior Environmentalist

072 594 0277
012 664 1180
012 664 1165
helen@engineerex.co.za
www.engineerex.co.za
246 Jean Avenue, Die Hoewes, Centurion

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water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X313 Pretoria, 0001 Tel 012 336 8988/8670, Fax 012 336 7359, Email: Nhlabathis@dws.gov.za

14 April 2016

RE: INVITATION TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP): BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM: PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: ENGX/1403 RMP

Dear Sir/ Madam

Engineerex (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to undertake the development of the RMP and associated Business Plan for Blyderivierspoort Dam. A RMP is a strategic plan that will provide guidance on regulating access and the recreational utilization of the dam thereof. It also promotes the protection of users, community participation and beneficiation of the local communities and ensuring that the dam is kept in good condition without compromising its primary purpose.

This letter serves to confirm that four (4) Public Meetings where the draft RMP will be presented, will be conducted as follows:

Meeting Type	Name of CPA	Date	Time	Venue
Public Participation Meetings	Mahubahuba a Bokone	23 April 2016	09:00 – 11:00	Moreipusho
	Setlhare & Moletele	23 April 2016	12:00 – 13:00	Setlhare T/A
	Moletele	24 April 2016	09:00 – 11:00	Scortia ga Mongatane
	Maorabjang	24 April 2016	12:00 – 13h00	Potholes

Your participation and comments are very important in the development and implementation of the RMP. Please feel free to contact us should you require further information with regards to this matter.

I trust you find the above in order.

Sincerely,

H.M Mthimkhulu

Helen Mthimkhulu

Subject: Key Stakeholder Engagement (Authority Meeting)
Location: Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Auditorium

Start: Tue 2014/07/22 10:00 AM
End: Tue 2014/07/22 12:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Required Attendees: Helen Mthimkhulu; mokoenaer@gmail.com; bhekiericnkosi@yahoo.com; phumzileluciakhoza@yahoo.com; dumyblyde@gmail.com; dmabena@ledc.co.za; dmkhabela@thabachweumun.gov.za; akani90.as@gmail.com; thembaberry@yahoo.com; xikaya@vodamail.co.za; vmagagula@thabachweumun.gov.za; ccave@thabachweumun.gov.za; MagadaniA@maruleng.gov.za; Aubrey.kokoto@gmail.com; dupreezj@worldonline.co.za; morolo@mpg.gov.za; SANKosi@ruraldevelopment.gov.za; jeff@mpg.gov.za; ndalasm@mpg.gov.za; Fakazile66@gmail.com; shlatshwayo@mpg.gov.za; hlophet@samsa.org.za; zindago@mailbox.co.za; vanAnswegenJ@dwa.gov.za; bothame@eskom.co.za; Chaukedt@eskom.co.za; Fbronkhorst@telkomsa.net; alumagfive@gmail.com; trikhotso@thabachweumun.gov.za; emkhonto@thabachweumun.gov.za

Optional Attendees:

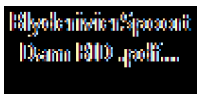
Resources: Irene Rampoto; nhlabathis@dwa.gov.za; sephotiT@dwa.gov.za

Good Afternoon All

You are hereby invited to attend the Key Stakeholder Engagement (Authority Meeting) for the development of the Resource Management Plan for Blyderivierspoort Dam.

The meeting will be held at the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Auditorium on Tuesday, 22nd of July 2014 (10H00pm – 12H00pm).

For more information regarding the project, see the attached Background Information Document (BID).



Regards

Helen Mthimkhulu

JNR ENVIRONMENTALIST

For Engineerex

96 Jean Avenue, Dorinkloof, Centurion, 0157

Tel: +27 12 667 1085

Cell: +27 72 594 0277

Fax: +27 86 605 6186

Email: helen@engineerex.co.za

Helen Mthimkhulu

Subject: Public Participation Meeting
Location: Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Auditorium

Start: Tue 2014/07/22 05:00 PM
End: Tue 2014/07/22 07:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

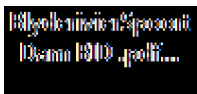
Organizer: Helen Mthimkhulu
Required Attendees: canyon@worldonline.co.za; lani@blydecanyon.co.za; thabatsweni@absamail.co.za; tilla@tripssa.co.za
Optional Attendees: mokoenaer@gmail.com; bhekiericnkosi@yahoo.com; phumzileluciakhoza@yahoo.com; dumyblyde@gmail.com; dmabena@ledc.co.za; dmkhabela@thabachweumun.gov.za; akani90.as@gmail.com; thembaberry@yahoo.com; xikaya@vodamail.co.za; vmagagula@thabachweumun.gov.za; ccave@thabachweumun.gov.za; MagadaniA@maruleng.gov.za; Aubrey.kokoto@gmail.com; dupreezjc@worldonline.co.za; morolo@mpg.gov.za; SANkosi@ruraldevelopment.gov.za; jeff@mpg.gov.za; ndalasm@mpg.gov.za; Fakazile66@gmail.com; shlatshwayo@mpg.gov.za; hlophet@samsa.org.za; ekocare@telkomsa.net; bothame@eskom.co.za; Chaukedt@eskom.co.za; fbronkhorst@telkomsa.net; rlegodi@samsa.org.za; Irene Rampoto; nhlabathis@dwa.gov.za; sephotiT@dwa.gov.za

Good Afternoon All

You are hereby invited to attend the Public Participation Meeting for the development of the Resource Management Plan for Blyderivierspoort Dam.

The meeting will be held at the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve Auditorium on Tuesday, 22nd of July 2014 (17H00pm – 19H00pm).

For more information regarding the project, see the attached Background Information Document (BID).



Regards
Helen Mthimkhulu
JNR ENVIRONMENTALIST
For Engineerex

96 Jean Avenue, Dorinkloof, Centurion, 0157

Tel: +27 12 667 1085

Cell: +27 72 594 0277

Fax: +27 86 605 6186

Email: helen@engineerex.co.za

Helen Mthimkhulu

Subject: Blyderivierspoort Dam Resource Management Plan Draft Presentation
Location: Hlokomela Hall (Unifruitti Richgate Farm, Blyde River Hoedspruit, 1380)

Start: Tue 09/02/2016 01:00 PM
End: Tue 09/02/2016 03:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Helen Mthimkhulu
Required Attendees: mokoenaer@gmail.com; bhekiericnkosi@yahoo.com; marinda@mtpa.co.za; fbronkhorst@telkomsa.net; phumzileluciakhoza@yahoo.com; calvin@mtpa.co.za; christinaseleman@gmail.com; busisiwe@mtpa.co.za; dumyblyde@gmail.com; zandilem@mtpa.co.za; nomcebos@mtpa.co.za; theresa@mtpa.co.za; dmabena@ledc.co.za; dmkhabela@thabachweumun.gov.za; akani90.as@gmail.com; thembaberry@yahoo.com; xikaya@vodamail.co.za; vmagagula@thabachweumun.gov.za; ccave@thabachweumun.gov.za; conf.sekgobela@gmail.gov.za; Aubrey.kokoto@gmail.com; morolo@mpg.gov.za; SANKosi@ruraldevelopment.gov.za; mabulanep@gmail.com; jeff@mpg.gov.za; ndalasm@mpg.gov.za; Fakazile66@gmail.com; shlatshwayo@mpg.gov.za; thlophe@samsa.org.za; zindago@mailbox.co.za; vanAnswegenJ@dwa.gov.za; bothame@eskom.co.za; Chaukedt@eskom.co.za; Irene Rampoto; Azwinndini Tshikhudo; dupreezjc@worldonline.co.za; nhlabathis@dwa.gov.za; sephotiT@dws.gov.za

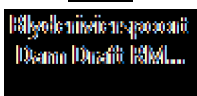
Good day all,

You are hereby invited to attend the **Authorities Meeting** for the development of Blyderivierspoort Dam Resource Management Plan (RMP). The main purpose of the meeting is to present the draft RMP developed for the dam. Should you not be able to attend the Authorities Meeting, you more than welcome to attend the **Public Meeting** to take place that day in the afternoon (same venue) at **16:00 pm to 18:00 pm**.

The meeting will be held at **Hlokomela Hall (Hoedspruit), 09 February 2016 at 13:00 pm to 15:00 pm**.

Physical Address:

Hlokomela Hall
Unifruitti Richgate Farm
Blyde River Hoedspruit
1380

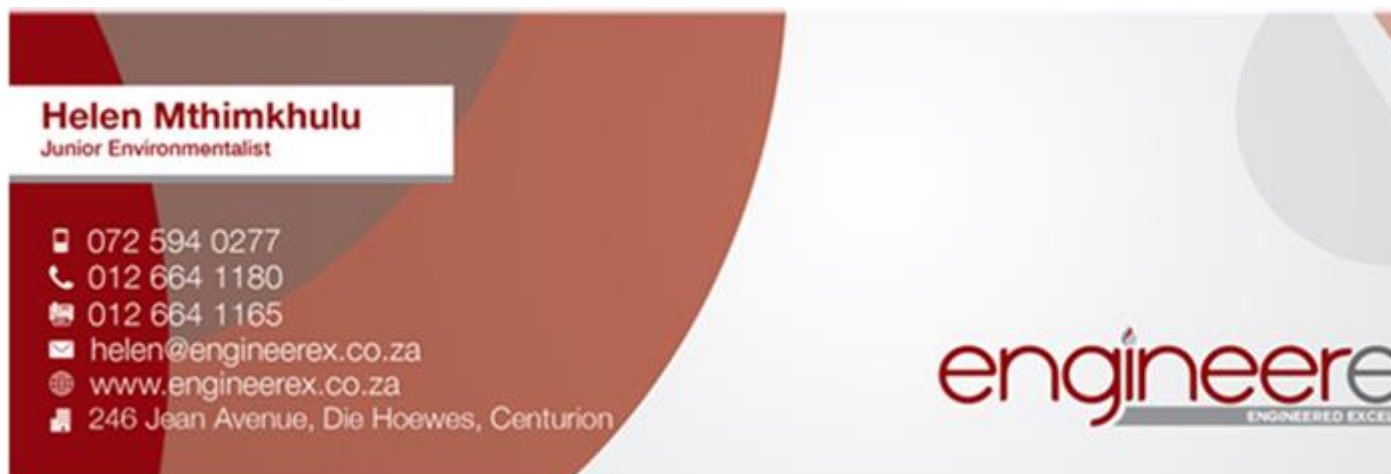


Attached is the soft copy of the draft RMP for review. Hard copies of the draft RMP Report are also available for review and comments at the **Blyde Adventure Centre (Swadini), Swadini Forever Resorts Reception, Blyde River Canyon Lodge Reception and Swadini Security Gate No.1**.

Kindly be advised that the comment period of the draft RMP commenced on **21 January 2016** and will lapse on **10 February 2016**. Should you have any comments/inputs you may forward them to the contact details below.

Should you encounter any difficulties in accessing the document, please feel free to inform me. We appreciate your input in the process and look forward to your continued interest in the RMP.

Regards,



Helen Mthimkhulu

Subject: Blyderivierspoort Dam Resource Management Plan Draft Presentation
Location: Hlokomela Hall (Unifruitti Richgate Farm, Blyde River Hoedspruit, 1380)

Start: Tue 09/02/2016 04:00 PM
End: Tue 09/02/2016 06:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Helen Mthimkhulu
Required Attendees: jvanvuren@mweb.co.za; thabatsweni@absamail.co.za; tilla@tripssa.co.za; deon@blydeadventurecamp.com; lani@blydecanyon.co.za; fmswadini@foreversa.co.za; fmblydepoort@foreversa.co.za; gavin@safarisynthesis.com; canyon@worldonline.co.za; info@bushveldconnections.co.za; nhlabathis@dws.gov.za; SeiphotiT@dws.gov.za; Azwinndini Tshikhudo; Irene Rampoto; dupreezjc@worldonline.co.za
Optional Attendees: mokoenaer@gmail.com; bhekiericnkosi@yahoo.com; marinda@mtpa.co.za; fbronkhorst@telkomsa.net; phumzileluciakhoza@yahoo.com; calvin@mtpa.co.za; christinaseleman@gmail.com; busisiwe@mtpa.co.za; dumyblyde@gmail.com; zandilem@mtpa.co.za; nomcebos@mtpa.co.za; theresa@mtpa.co.za; dmabena@ledc.co.za; dmkhabela@thabachweumun.gov.za; akani90.as@gmail.com; thembaberry@yahoo.com; xikaya@vodamail.co.za; vmagagula@thabachweumun.gov.za; ccave@thabachweumun.gov.za; Aubrey.kokoto@gmail.com; morolo@mpg.gov.za; SANKosi@ruraldevelopment.gov.za; mabulanep@gmail.com; jeff@mpg.gov.za; ndalasm@mpg.gov.za; Fakazile66@gmail.com; shlatshwayo@mpg.gov.za; thlophe@samsa.org.za; zindago@mailbox.co.za; vanAnsweigenJ@dws.gov.za; bothame@eskom.co.za; Chaukedt@eskom.co.za

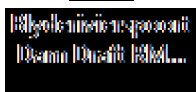
Good day all,

You are hereby invited to attend the **Public Meeting** for the development of Blyderivierspoort Dam Resource Management Plan (RMP). The main purpose of the meeting is to present the draft RMP developed for the dam.

The meeting will be held at **Hlokomela Hall (Hoedspruit), 09 February 2016 at 16:00 to 18:00.**

Physical Address:

Hlokomela Hall
Unifruitti Richgate Farm
Blyde River Hoedspruit
1380



Attached is the soft copy of the draft RMP for review. Hard copies of the draft RMP Report are also available for review and comments at the **Blyde Adventure Centre Reception (Swadini), Swadini Forever Resorts Reception, Blyde River Canyon Lodge Reception and Swadini Security Gate No.1.**

Kindly be advised that the comment period of the draft RMP commenced on **21 January 2016** and will lapse on **10 February 2016**. Should you have any comments/inputs you may forward them to the contact details below.

Should you encounter any difficulties in accessing the document, please feel free to inform me. We appreciate your input in the process and look forward to your continued interest in the RMP.

Regards,

APPENDIX F

ISSUES, COMMENTS & RESPONSE REGISTER

BLYDERIVIERSPOORT DAM

ISSUES, COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REGISTER

**PROJECT : Blyderivierspoort Dam Resource Management
Plan**

ISSUE/COMMENT:	RESPONSE:
<p>SAMSA is already involved with Blyde Centre on the compliance of the boat: SAMSA does the yearly inspections and the boat complies with SAMSA regulations. They have issued us the certificates for the boat. Our contact person at SAMSA is Simphiwe Zwane.</p> <p>Skippers / Guides on the boat: The skippers comply with the regulations issued by SAMSA. Our skippers on the boat have skipper's licences with endorsement.</p> <p>Life jacket: In the draft report page 34 it mentions "the boat cruise without safety jackets", at all times we have life jackets on the boat. On the time that the site inspection was conducted the boat was on the old set-up before the renovation. The life jackets were in the back of the boat in the containers, there are enough life jackets for each person boarding on the boat. It seems that the guide didn't mention the jackets on that day. Our standard rule on the boat is that, before boat departure the skipper gives an introduction on how the life jackets works. To comply with SAMSA regulation all non-swimmers and children under 12 need to wear life jackets.</p>	<p>Comments noted. Page 34 of the draft RMP will be revised accordingly.</p>
<p>Previous messages (5 June 2014, and 23 January 2015) with regards to the management of the water surface of the dam (Act of Agreement in place for 35 years) remain unresolved.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended that the scope of area of responsibility needs to be defined precisely prior to the continuing with the drafting of the RMP (Your par. 1.4.1. briefly refer to the issue). The draft RMP as presented causes confusion (It refer to an IMP which</p>	<p>Hence the authority meeting to resolve any issues that MTPA or any other authorities may have.</p> <p>MTPA is on the opinion that the Authorities Meeting is an inappropriate platform to address the type of concerns mentioned. Therefore they request a separate meeting where these RMP's can be discussed. To make arrangements easier, the meeting can be held before the Authorities Meeting.</p> <p>The proposed meeting will be held on 15 April 2016.</p>

ISSUE/COMMENT:	RESPONSE:
<p>is different from the IMP which MTPA has drafted and at great cost), The RMP also repeatedly refer to aspects not directly relevant to the water surface of the said dam (Cableway, Viewpoints, Hiking trails, apparent concessions etc.), and the suggested dam management committee proposes institutions of which the level of their supposed involvement can be argued or questionable in terms of decision making powers, whilst other stakeholders of more probable relevance are left out .</p>	
<p>Our office is responsible for boating activities nationally in as far as our Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessels) Regulations of 2007 apply. It would therefore be greatly appreciated the communique can be directed to our office regarding any engagements which require a representation by a SAMSA Official.</p> <p>For this upcoming meeting, be advised that SAMSA will not be represented due to other work commitments and we kindly request that you be our ears and convey to us any concerns which must be addressed.</p> <p>An updated meeting schedule from your side will be very useful so that we can plan our schedules around your engagements, please send us your schedule.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>If the water quality degrades, it will affect the quality of the farmer's productivity which in turn will negatively affect their products for exports.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

ISSUE/COMMENT:	RESPONSE:
<p>The filming in the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve (BCNR) is becoming an issue. Filming for six (6) weeks is a concern for tourism operators. The Nature Reserve becomes closed and makes marketing difficult whenever there is filming activity.</p>	<p>Comment noted. This will be added under concerns raised in the draft RMP.</p>
<p>The dam is used by communities downstream which are in Limpopo Province, but decisions are made upstream in Mpumalanga whilst all the users are in Limpopo.</p>	<p>In Section 1 of the RMP under Background of the Blyderivierspoort Dam, the locality of the dam is clearly stated in terms of jurisdiction. There is also a locality map (Figure 3) attached for easy reference. MTPA is the managing authority of the dam, as the Nature Reserve cannot be managed in isolation of the dam. However this issue will be addressed in the Dam Management Committee.</p>
<p>Will the people who have concessions be compensated when filming is done? Because the whole Nature Reserve gets closed down when filming is done. This affects tourism operators.</p> <p>Where does the film crew fall in the RMP?</p> <p>Is there a specific zone to be designated to the filming crew? The filming is done all over the Nature Reserve, the dam wall and on the water surface etc.?</p>	<p>Old agreements will be replaced by new agreements which are in line with the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). New concessions will be fair and competitive to everyone. The awarding of concessions need to follow the National Treasury Regulations No.16. It also depends on the type of the application for a concession.</p> <p>The filming activity is classified under events, any proposed events have a procedure to follow. It is believed the filming crew has received concessions from MTPA. Applications for events will be received by MTPA as the management authority and will be forwarded to DWS for consideration.</p> <p>This will be considered on the awarding of concession.</p>
<p>Is it possible to camp where boats launch?</p>	<p>That will trigger user conflict, hence the zoning designates a feasible area for certain activities to occur. An area permissible for boat launching will be designated for that activity. Camping is designated to the Low Density and Development Zone. Safety issues should be taken into consideration should there be interest of camping.</p>

ISSUE/COMMENT:	RESPONSE:
<p>Will DWS finance the seating of the DMC meetings?</p>	<p>DWS will not finance the DMC meetings. The committee will consist of representatives/ stakeholders who are interest driven. Members of the DMC will come in as per their mandate or management role to be played. It is a common understanding that those who have interest will be willing to attend the meetings without any compensation.</p>
<p>Does the boat operators (Blyde Adventure Centre) have a valid contract with MTPA?</p>	<p>There is no contract as yet, but they have an interim contract. The contract will be open for tender and the current operators will have to bid for the boat operator contract just like everybody else. It is currently MTPA's mandate to review the operator's contract. MTPA can follow their supply chain process in reviewing contracts since DWS and MTPA have a legal agreement.</p>

ISSUE/COMMENT:	RESPONSE:
<p>Since the old Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) is still valid between DWS and MTPA, should the concessionaires no longer approach DWS?</p>	<p>Once the process of converting the old MoA into the new DWS MoA has been finalised, it will provide clarity on conditions. Although MTPA has been appointed as the management authority of the dam, it can consider the MoA on how to deal with concessions. All the applications for permits must go to MTPA, but DWS as owners of the dam should comment on the applications to cover liability.</p>
<p>On the proposed committees, were the stakeholders consulted?</p> <p>Is the Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) in line with MTPA's Integrated Management Plan (IMP)?</p>	<p>The RMP is a public document and during the implementation stage, the stakeholders who will form part of the DMC will be engaged and it will be discussed with them on what DWS needs to achieve.</p> <p>The IMP for the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve (BCNR) was used as baseline data in developing the RMP. Moreover, the RMP will become a "sub – plan" of the IMP for BCNR.</p>
<p>Were any recreational activities interests brought forward during the RMP?</p>	<p>Yes, and their practicability have been documented in the Research Report and RMP.</p>

ISSUE/COMMENT:	RESPONSE:
<p>The dam belongs to the DWS, but it is located within the communal land, so how is the community going to benefit from the RMP?</p>	<p>The question relates to the RMP project, hence the presentation commenced by going through the actual SWOT analysis that was conducted during the planning stages. The RMP addresses issues of economic development in a sense of how should the local communities benefit.</p>
<p>Provide clarity on the public participation dates where the SWOT analysis was conducted as indicated on the presentation (hard copies), as some of the members were not involved in the meetings.</p>	<p>There was an agreement with the CPA members to conduct the SWOT analysis with the actual community members and the feedback was given back by CPA leaders in the public participation dates specified respectively.</p>
<p>The RMP is not about the land claims, however if water needs to be utilised by the community, what is the procedure to request water supply? The community has a land but there is no water supply.</p> <p>What is expected of the community?</p> <p>When referring to the community leaders that were engaged during the initial stakeholder engagement, is it the chiefs or the CPA?</p>	<p>The RMP focuses on the secondary use and not the primary use. To clarify issues, if there is a need to utilize water from the dam or river there is a DWS regional office in Nelspruit that can be engaged. This will trigger the application of a water use authorization.</p> <p>The draft report is detailed, it is a plea that the community goes through the report, review and provide inputs by 16 May 2016.</p>

ISSUE/COMMENT:	RESPONSE:
<p>If a person has a fishing license at Tzaneen Dam and is interested in fishing at Blyderivierspoort Dam will a fishing permit be required?</p>	<p>Due to dangerous faunal species (hippos and crocodiles) present in the dam, no fishing is allowed at the dam. Additionally, fishing permits are specific to a water resource (dam and catchment area).</p>
<p>How does Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) come into play on the proposed DMC?</p>	<p>The dam falls within the jurisdiction of the EDM hence they are the proposed stakeholders on the DMC.</p>
<p>Has there been any claims forwarded to DWS regarding the land submerged by the dam?</p>	<p>There has not been any claim lodged, however the community does not want monetary compensation. They want to be part of every business opportunities arising at the dam. There must be an agreement in place and the Moletete CPA should be the main shareholders. They don't want to be "sleeping partners".</p>
<p>The dam level is very low currently, what is going to happen if the dam is no longer existing?</p>	<p>South Africa as a whole is experiencing drought and global warming issues. We as the nation can only hope for heavy rains.</p>

ISSUE/COMMENT:	RESPONSE:
<p>Since there were meetings with other CPAs, the Maorabjang would like to know some issues of concern shed by other CPAs.</p>	<p>Moletele CPA – There was a lot emphasis on historical issues. Mahubahuba a Bokone CPA – Their issues are with the boat operator tender. Setlhare CPA – The meeting was poorly attended, however a presentation was conducted and the representatives of the CPA are going to engage with the actual communities.</p>
<p>On the Co- Management Committees (CMC), are Tribal Authorities represented?</p>	<p>No, they are not represented.</p>

ISSUE/COMMENT:	RESPONSE:
<p>How are the non-beneficiaries of the land claims going to be accommodated on the benefits arising from potential developments?</p>	<p>The CMC should highlight on how the beneficiaries and the general public will be accommodated.</p>