# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE GROOT LETABA RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (GLEWAP) LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Draft Proceedings of two Public Meetings

Friday, 12 October, and Saturday, 13 October 2007

For comment by those who attended

# **PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This document records the proceedings of two meetings between stakeholders and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, BKS (Pty) Ltd, ILISO Consulting, and Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd (See Appendix A for a list of participants). The meetings were held on 12 and 13 October 2007 at the Tzaneen Country Lodge and the Department of Home Affairs facilities at Runnymede, Nwamitwa Village, respectively. The objectives of the meetings were to provide stakeholders with:

- An overview of the Groot Letaba River Water Development Project (GLeWaP) and the proposed construction of infrastructure for the project;
- An outline of the EIA process to be followed and how stakeholders can contribute to the process;
- An overview of the issues and concerns raised by stakeholders during the Scoping Phase of the EIA, and how these issues and concerns are proposed to be covered during the Impact Assessment;
- An opportunity to confirm that issues raised during the Scoping Phase of the EIA
  have been considered in the Draft Scoping Report and to comment on the proposed
  specialists studies.

# **YOUR COMMENTS BY 31 JANUARY 2007 PLEASE**

Representatives that attended are requested to please ensure that their comments, concerns and suggestions are fully and correctly captured in this document.

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	WEL	COME AND INTRODUCTION	1		
	1.1 1.2	Objectives and guidelines for the meeting			
2.	OVE	RVIEW OF THE EIA PROCESS	2		
	2.1 2.2	The objectives of the EIA			
	2.2	Components of the EIA process			
	2.3	2.2.1 Public Participation Timeline for the EIA	-		
3.	PRO	JECT RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND			
		3.1.1 Components of the GLeWaP	5		
		3.1.2 The proposed dam at the site known as Nwamitwa	5		
	3.2	Relocation of roads	<u>6</u>		
	3.3	Feasibility study for the GLeWaP			
	0.4	3.3.1 Recommendations of the feasibility study	8		
	3.4	Planning milestones for the GLeWaP	8		
4.	THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT				
	4.1	The receiving environment	9		
		4.1.1 Demographic	9		
		4.1.2 Economic	9		
		4.1.3 Land Use Activities	9		
	4.2	Key issues identified during scoping			
		4.2.1 River flow (water quantity and quality)	10		
		4.2.2 Social issues	10		
		4.2.3 Economic issues	10		
		4.2.4 Physical infrastructure and transport	10		
		4.2.5 Public health	10		
		4.2.6 Heritage resources	10		
		4.2.7 Water rights	10		
		4.2.8 Land acquisition	10		
		4.2.9 Construction	11		
		4.2.10 International Considerations	11		
	4.3	Terms of Reference for the EIA			
	4.4	Alternatives			
	4.5	Specialist Studies	11		
	4.6	Environmental Management Plan			
	4.7	Conclusion	12		
5.	DISC	CUSSION			
	5.1	Overview of the EIA process	12		
		5.1.1 Issues arising from the meeting on 12 October 2007	12		
		5.1.2 Issues arising from the meeting on 13 October 2007	13		
	5.2	Project rationale and background			
		5.2.1 Issues arising from the meeting on 12 October 2007	13		
		5.2.2 Issues arising from the meeting on 13 October 2007	14		
	5.3	Discussion on the contents of the Draft Scoping Report			
		5.3.1 Issues arising from the meeting on 12 October 2007	15		

# **LIST OF FIGURES**

FIGURE 1. C	OMPONENTS OF THE EIA PROCESS FOR THE GROOT LETABA RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
	R BOB PULLEN AND MR BROWN KHUMBUZA FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTR' DISCUSSES THE PROJECT RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT WITH STAKEHOLDERS AT THE 1: OCTOBER 2007 MEETING AT RUNNYMADE, NWAMITWA VILLAGE
	THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED NWAMITWA DAM RELATIVE TO OTHER DAMS IN THE GROOT LETABLE CATCHMENT
FIGURE 4: A	N ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF WHAT THE NWAMITWA DAM MIGHT LOOK LIKE AFTER COMPLETION
FIGURE 5: Ar	N ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF WHAT THE NWAMITWA DAM COULD LOOK LIKE FROM THE AIR AFTER COMPLETION
	HE EXISTING ROADS IN THE PROPOSED DAM SITE AREA ARE SHOWN IN RED AND BLACK IN THIS FIGURE. THI D LINES REPRESENT THE PROPOSED RE-ALIGNED ROUTES

# **APPENDICES**

Appendix A: List of Participants

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mr Solly Manyaka from Zitholele Consulting, welcomed everybody present and thanked them for attending the meeting. He provided a brief introduction to the project, the EIA and the meeting.

At the meeting on 12 October 2007, Mr Bernie Badenhorst from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry – Limpopo Region – welcomed participants on behalf of the Department and invited participants to provide inputs and contributions to the meeting.

At the meeting on 13 October 2007, Kgosi Mbhalati officially welcomed participants to the meeting. He informed participants that he was asked to do the welcoming as member of the local leadership and that it is required in terms of local and traditional processes. Mr Alson Matukane, Chief Director of the Department in the Limpopo Province, thereafter thanked Kgosi Mbhalati for the welcoming. Mr Matukane said that the Department is running the process so that stakeholders can know what was happening with planning of the project and environmental investigations. He said that it is important for stakeholders to participate in the process so that the Department can know what the community's concerns are. The project is at a planning phase (technically) and impact assessment studies are being conducted.

Mr Manyaka introduced the project team members from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), BKS (Pty) Ltd (BKS), ILISO Consulting (ILISO), and Zitholele Consulting (Zitholele). Project team members at the meetings were Mr Ockie van den Berg, project manager at DWAF, Mr Bob Pullen from BKS, Ms Terry Baker from ILISO, and Ms Anelle Odendaal, Wilhelmina Mosupye and Ms Alet Visser from Zitholele.

BKS is the project coordinating consultant for the Groot Letaba River Water Development Project (GLeWaP). ILISO is undertaking the environmental impact assessment (EIA), while Zitholele is responsible for public consultation during the EIA.

# 1.1 Objectives and guidelines for the meeting

Mr Manyaka informed participants of the objectives of the meeting.

The objectives of the meeting were to provide stakeholders with:

- An overview of the Groot Letaba River Water Development Project (GLeWaP);
- An outline of the EIA process and information on how stakeholders can contribute;
- An overview of issues and concerns raised thus far and how these issues and concerns are proposed to be covered during the Impact Assessment;
- An opportunity to comment on the proposed specialists studies.

Mr Manyaka further provided guidelines for productive discussion at the meeting. Participants were invited to contribute and were told that contributions of stakeholders are very valuable since they know the area better than the project team. Participants were asked to make contributions in their language of choice.

#### 1.2 Programme of the meeting

Mr Manyaka discussed the programme of the meeting with participants. The programme comprised the following:

- Overview of the EIA Process
- Project rationale and background
  - History and motivation of the proposed project
- Draft Scoping Report

- Receiving environment
- Key issues raised during scoping
- Terms of reference for specialist studies

Sufficient opportunity was provided for discussion and suggestions for the process ahead.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE EIA PROCESS

Ms Terry Baker from ILISO Consulting discussed the EIA Process that is being followed for the GLeWaP. The EIA is being undertaken according to the EIA Regulations under Section 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), (Act No 107 of 1998) as amended in Government Notice R385, 386, 387 – Government Gazette No. 28753 of 21 April 2006.

# 2.1 The objectives of the EIA

The objectives of the EIA are to:

- Ensure that any potential impacts on the environmental (biophysical/social/economic) are taken into account in project planning and implementation;
- · Promote sustainable development;
- Enable the participation of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs); and
- To provide information to the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) to enable them to decide whether the project should be authorized or not, and if so then under what conditions.

# 2.2 Components of the EIA process

The EIA process comprises of the components outlined in Figure 1.

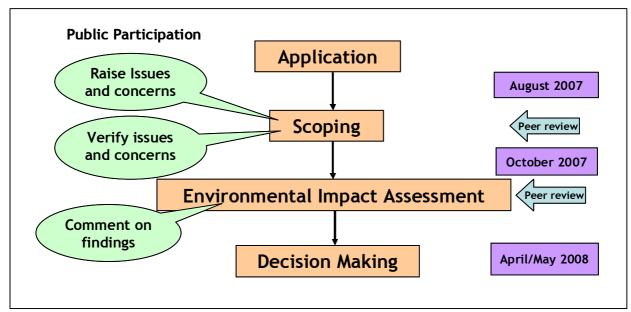


FIGURE 1. COMPONENTS OF THE EIA PROCESS FOR THE GROOT LETABA RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The EIA is currently in the Scoping Phase.

The three main phases of the EIA process, Scoping, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Decision Making consist of various steps:

#### 1. Scoping Phase

- · Identification and description of issues
- · Identification of fatal flaws
- Investigation of alternatives
- Develop Terms of Reference for EIA.

#### 2. Impact Assessment Phase

- Specialist studies
- Integration of specialist input
- Develop Environmental Impact Report
- · Develop Environmental Management Plans.

#### 3. Decision Making (Authorisation)

- Authorisation
- Appeal period.

## 2.2.1 Public Participation

The public participation component of the EIA provides stakeholders with the opportunity to raise issues and concerns, to verify that their issues and concerns were taken into account in the EIA, and to comment on the findings of the specialist studies. Public participation (PP) will take place throughout the EIA process and will include a number of meetings with stakeholders to raise comments and concerns at various stages of the EIA.



FIGURE 2: MR BOB PULLEN, BKS AND MR BROWN KHUMBUZA FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY DISCUSSES THE PROJECT RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT WITH STAKEHOLDERS AT THE 13 OCTOBER 2007 MEETING, NWAMITWA VILLAGE

#### 2.3 Timeline for the EIA

Key milestones of the EIA process are listed in Table 1 below. The EIA process is currently in the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) public comment period.

**Activity** Date 19 - 21 March 2007 Site Visit 8 March 2007 Pre-application consultation 22 June 2007 Application form submitted August 2007 Scoping public participation October 2007 **Draft Scoping Report public comment period** November 2007 Submit Final Scoping Report Until February 2008 Specialist studies and impact assessment April - May 2008 Public comment period on Draft EIR and EMP July 2008 Submit final EIR and EMP August - October 2008 **Authority Review** 

TABLE 1: KEY MILESTONES OF THE EIA PROCESS FOR THE GLEWAP

## 3. PROJECT RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

At the meeting on 12 October 2007, Mr Van den Berg discussed the project rationale and the background to the proposed project with stakeholders. Technical information about the proposed GLeWaP, not relating to the EIA, was provided during this session.

At the meeting on 13 October 2007, Mr Pullen discussed this subject with stakeholders. He apologized to stakeholders that he was unable to make the presentation in the local language. He said that he was pleased and appreciative of Mr Brown Khumbuza's assistance in translating.

The main rationale for the GLeWaP is the fact that water resources in the catchment, therefore in the Groot Letaba River and its tributaries, are increasingly becoming overcommitted and water scarcity in the catchment is of great concern. Domestic water requirements are expected to increase significantly in future, putting pressure on available water supplies. The irrigation sector, the mainstay of the socio-economy of the region, is experiencing water shortages of increasing frequency and severity. Due to the demand pressures, the conservation status of riverine ecosystems has become a major concern, and a range of options (management and infrastructure) are considered to improve the situation.

The objective of the GLeWaP, located in the Groot Letaba Catchment, is to maximize social and economic benefits from available water resources with minimum negative social and environmental impacts. The project team thus seeks to develop the minimum infrastructure necessary to fulfill in the requirements of the region while protecting the social, economic and biophysical environment (for example, the smallest dam necessary to meet in the requirements of the region).

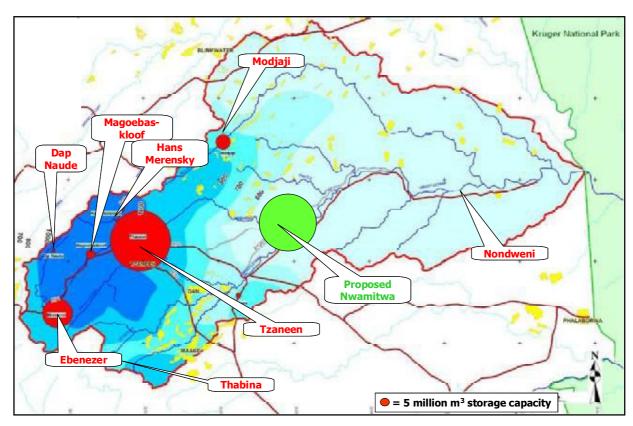


FIGURE 3: THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED NWAMITWA DAM RELATIVE TO OTHER DAMS IN THE GROOT LETABA CATCHMENT.

#### 3.1.1 Components of the GLeWaP

The three main components of the GLeWaP are the raising of the Tzaneen Dam to increase its storage capacity, the building of a new dam in the Groot Letaba River as additional storage capacity, and the development of bulk water supply infrastructure (such as pipelines). FIGURE 3 shows the location of both the Tzaneen Dam and the proposed dam at the site known as Nwamitwa.

## 3.1.2 The proposed dam at the site known as Nwamitwa

The proposed dam at the site known as Nwamitwa will be situated in the Groot Letaba River, just downstream of the confluence of the Nwanedzi River. The name of the proposed dam has not been finalized and the name "Nwamitwa Dam" is used in the interim until a thorough consultation process has been followed to decide on a name.

FIGURE 4 and FIGURE 5 are artist's impressions of what the Nwamitwa Dam could look like when finished.

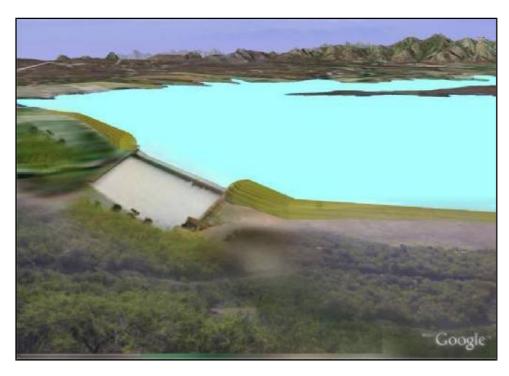


FIGURE 4: AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF WHAT THE NWAMITWA DAM MIGHT LOOK LIKE AFTER COMPLETION



FIGURE 5: AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF WHAT THE NWAMITWA DAM COULD LOOK LIKE FROM THE AIR AFTER COMPLETION

#### 3.2 Relocation of roads

The development of the Nwamitwa Dam will submerge sections of the D1292 and the R592 roads. It is therefore necessary that these sections should be rerouted to maintain access for important people and goods traffic. The development of the dam could have implications on travel distance and time in the area.

The existing roads and proposed new roads are shown in Figure 6.

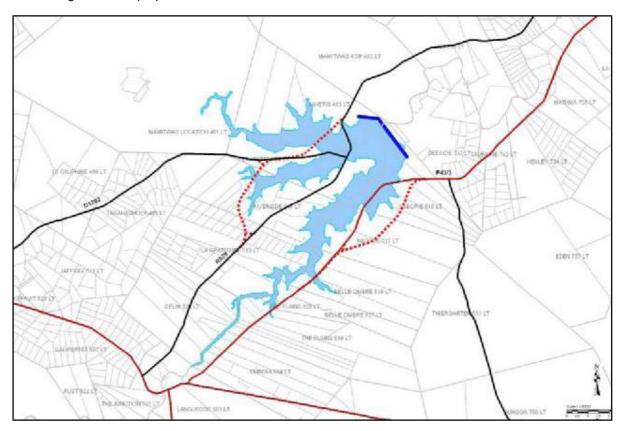


FIGURE 6: THE EXISTING ROADS IN THE PROPOSED DAM SITE AREA ARE SHOWN IN RED AND BLACK IN THIS FIGURE. THE DOTTED LINES REPRESENT THE PROPOSED RE-ALIGNED ROUTES.

# 3.3 Feasibility study for the GLeWaP

A study was conducted in 1998 to investigate the feasibility of various options to improve water management in the Groot Letaba catchment. The following options were considered:

#### Option 1: "Do Nothing"

This option was the least feasible since it would maintain the *status quo* and the situation in the catchment would deteriorate even further. Increasing primary water requirements have to be met and the consequences of the do nothing option would be:

- Riverine ecosystems would deteriorate further
- Shortages of water for irrigation would worsen
- The socio-economy of the region would suffer periodic serious setbacks this would have implications for
  poverty and the wellbeing of residents of the catchment.

# Option 2: Replace commercial plantations with natural vegetation

Option 3: Cease export of water

Option 4: Improve utilization efficiency of irrigation water

Option 5: Decrease irrigation allocations

Option 6: Water loss management: domestic and industrial

#### Option 7: Create additional storage

- Nwamitwa dam site (previously known as Janetsi)
- Hobson's Choice dam site in the Letsitele River.

## Option 8: Improve water management in all user sectors

#### 3.3.1 Recommendations of the feasibility study

The feasibility study conducted in 1998 culminated in three main recommendations (see Box 1). These recommendations were accepted and planning for their combined implementation has commenced. The Limpopo Provincial Government strongly supports the further development of water resources by creating additional water storage. Subsequently, planning started on the GLeWaP.

#### Box 1

#### 1. Management intervention (necessary but limited potential)

Including water loss management, improving the effectiveness of the irrigation sector, and removing invasive alien woody species.

#### 2. Reallocate resources

Compulsory licensing in order to provide for the Ecological Reserve and primary water needs will lead to decreased allocations for irrigation.

#### 3. Development of water resources

Including a new major dam at Nwamitwa in the Groot Letaba River and raising the Tzaneen Dam.

# 3.4 Planning milestones for the GLeWaP

A number of planning milestones have been set for the GLeWaP to ensure that progress stays on track. The next milestone is the completion of the EIA report by July 2008. Should everything work according to plan, construction of the main infrastructural components of the project will commence in October 2009, and should be completed by 2013.

The following are the main project milestones until 2013:

1	Environmental Impact Assessment	July 2007 – July 2008
		July 2007 — July 2000

2. Technical Optimization August 2008

3. Institutional and Financial Arrangements August 2008

4. Ministerial/Cabinet Decision August 2008

Environmental review and authorization August - October 2008

6. Tender design September 2008 –

September 2009

7. Commence main construction October 2009

8. First storage of water and benefits January 2012

9. Project completion Mid-2013

#### 4. THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

The main deliverable from the Scoping Phase of an EIA is a Scoping Report. A Draft Scoping Report (DSR) is first distributed to stakeholders for comment and review and is then updated with stakeholder comments to produce a final scoping report (FSR).

Ms Terry Baker presented the contents of the DSR to stakeholders at the public meetings. The DSR includes information about:

- The Receiving Environment
- The EIA Process
- The project description
- Alternatives
- Key issues
- The Terms of Reference for EIA (including Specialist Studies).

#### 4.1 The receiving environment

## 4.1.1 Demographic

The GLeWaP mostly falls within the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality. Most residents in the project area live in rural villages and the project area has a high population density. The dominant population group in the area consists of Black Africans. Education levels in the area are generally low. Very few households have direct access to water within their dwelling or yard. The provision of bulk water supplies is therefore a priority to the affected communities.

#### 4.1.2 Economic

Nearly 30 percent of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality population is unemployed. Tzaneen is the only provincial growth point in the study area.

The main economic activity in the region is agriculture, in particular the irrigation sector. The agricultural sector provides the major portion of local employment opportunities.

#### 4.1.3 Land Use Activities

Mixed farming with high value fruit production in particular is the dominant land use activity in the area. This is complemented by cattle ranching, game farming, dryland crop production, and a variety of crops produced under irrigation.

The road network in the area consists of good tar roads, with internal gravel roads often affected by maintenance problems.

Tourism development is below what could be expected from an area with such outstanding natural beauty.

#### 4.2 Key issues identified during scoping

The following key issues were identified during the Scoping Phase and will be investigated further during the Impact Assessment Phase.

#### 4.2.1 River flow (water quantity and quality)

A change in the flow in a river as a result of building a new dam could result in the degradation of aquatic and riparian habitats. One of the objectives of this project proposal is to better manage the flow regime to meet riverine ecological requirements.

Water quality could be affected by eutrophic conditions, increased salinity, and changes in temperature and quantity of water released from the dam.

Potential impacts on downstream users (including Kruger National Park and Mozambique) must also be considered.

#### 4.2.2 Social issues

The proposed project may impact on the size, composition and character of communities and the provision of services in the study area.

#### 4.2.3 Economic issues

The project will have positive short and long term impacts on the economy of the area. Direct and in-direct job opportunities will be created as a result of the construction, operations and maintenance of the proposed dam. Increased water security will stabilize employment opportunities (particularly in the irrigation sector) due to expected positive impacts on the sustainability of the agricultural sector in the region.

#### 4.2.4 Physical infrastructure and transport

Existing infrastructure in the region could be affected by the proposed project. Main roads in the project area will have to be relocated in the vicinity of the dam basin. This will impact on traffic flow routes, particularly between residential areas and places of work in the agricultural sector. Transportation of agricultural products to markets could also be affected.

#### 4.2.5 Public health

Decreased river flow may increase the risk of diseases in the adjacent and downstream communities. However, the potential benefits to the communities of potable water, with expected improvements in sanitation and hygiene, will increase the overall standard of living.

#### 4.2.6 Heritage resources

Certain heritage resources in the area could be impacted by the proposed project. It is not the responsibility of the EIA team to relocate such resources, for example graves, ruins, places of spiritual or cultural importance, and archaeological sites. However, the extent and significance of such sites will be identified in the heritage resource impact assessment and recommendations will be made of how to deal with these sites. The Department will take responsibility for dealing appropriately with these sites.

#### 4.2.7 Water rights

Some of the land that will be required for the project includes irrigated orchards and other crops. Future water allocations to these areas is a significant issue and requires a policy directive, bearing in mind compensation costs as well as the impact on the economy in future.

#### 4.2.8 Land acquisition

A significant portion of the basin is under, permanent orchard crops that will require a number of years to be replaced elsewhere. To continue supply to pack houses and other fruit industries, submerged orchards have to be replaced. Should this not happen it could have implications for the economy of the area. Land purchase

arrangements should therefore be scheduled appropriately and as early as possible to ensure that new orchards can be established to minimise impacts on production.

#### 4.2.9 Construction

During construction, the day-to-day lives of communities in the area could be affected by traffic, noise and dust. The presence of construction camps with immigration of construction workers could also have impacts on the region.

#### 4.2.10 International Considerations

The EIA takes into account responsibilities linked to the Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems and the new SADC Water Policy that will be signed and ratified by SADC countries in the near future. Official communication between the governments of South Africa and Mozambique is necessary since the proposed development of the project could affect water supply to Mozambique.

#### 4.3 Terms of Reference for the EIA

The likely impacts identified during Scoping will be evaluated by specialists to determine their significance. Mitigation measures to minimize any significant negative impacts and optimize positive impacts will be proposed.

#### 4.4 Alternatives

Alternatives to the proposed storage dam at Nwamitwa have been fully investigated and it was confirmed that this is the preferred option. It must be noted that recommendations concerning water loss management and the reallocation of water resources are to be implemented progressively in conjunction with the construction of additional storage. The specialist studies will therefore only focus on the proposed project and not investigate alternatives any further.

#### 4.5 Specialist Studies

The following specialist studies will be conducted during the Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA:

- Aquatic ecology
- Water quality
- Terrestrial ecology
- Heritage resources
- Social and land-use processes
- Health
- Economic
- Traffic
- Visual
- Noise
- Air quality.

The results of the specialist studies will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR) that will be compiled according to the Regulations in Government Notice 385.

## 4.6 Environmental Management Plan

A draft pre-construction Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and a generic construction EMP will be compiled and included in the EIR.

The objective of the EMPs is to present a workable document that explains how to operate and implement environmental protection requirements for construction. EMPs for the operational and de-commissioning phases will be compiled at a later stage.

#### 4.7 Conclusion

The opinion of the EIA consultants is that the Scoping Phase of the EIA has fulfilled the NEMA requirements. Stakeholders have had various opportunities to comment on the project and the EIA.

The Scoping Phase has confirmed that the proposal to construct a new dam at Nwamitwa and the possible raising of Tzaneen Dam, together with water loss management and resource reallocation measures is the preferred option for providing improved water management to meet increased domestic, socio-economic development and ecological requirements in the catchment. The studies have not identified any environmental fatal flaws but a number of potentially significant issues have been highlighted for further investigation.

## 5. DISCUSSION

#### 5.1 Overview of the EIA process

#### 5.1.1 Issues arising from the meeting on 12 October 2007

Mr Werner Booysen from the Mooketsi Farmers Union expressed his concern that the EIA does not consider human-animal interaction in the region. Hippo attacking humans, and even vehicles, is highly problematic in the Tzaneen region. According to Mr Booysen, environmental departments of government do not take action on this matter. Such departments should come to the region and inform stakeholders of what action will be taken regarding the matter. Ms Baker replied that this matter and recommendations could be considered in the environmental management plan (EMP).

Ms Shoni Tshivhase from the Roads Agency Limpopo asked why it was decided to submit only one EIA application for the proposed Nwamitwa Dam and the raising of the Tzaneen Dam. In her opinion, it should have been two applications.

Mr Booysen said that his opinion was that a holistic approach should be taken in terms of the EIA, i.e. only one EIA process should be followed and not two. This will mean that meetings are combined and that time spent by stakeholders attending meetings will be lessened.

Mr Lekgolo Ramalepe from the BaKgaga BaMaupa Communal Property Association said that previously disadvantaged communities have difficulty accessing information about the proposed project and EIA because they do not have access to the internet and other information media. He stressed that ancestral graves of his community are in the proposed dam basin and offered to point out such sites to the Team. He requested that project team to provide information on the radio and announce where the process will take place and how people can participate. Another option would be to send a letter to the tribal authorities so that they can inform the people. Mr Eddie Mashau from BKS informed Mr Ramalepe that the process of identification of graves is usually announced on radio and in newspapers. Ms Tshivhase suggested that advertisements are placed in the local language of the area.

#### 5.1.2 Issues arising from the meeting on 13 October 2007

Mrs Maria Sathekge from the Nwamitwa Ward Committee asked whether all tribal authorities have been involved in the public participation process. Ms Anelle Odendaal, Zitholele responded that the relevant tribal authorities in the project area have been informed.

# 5.2 Project rationale and background

#### 5.2.1 Issues arising from the meeting on 12 October 2007

Mr Louis van Rooyen from the Letaba Water Users Association said that there are rumours that more afforestation is planned for the area. Mr van Rooyen told stakeholders that Mr Alson Matukane from the Department informed people in the region that forestry could increase. There is a shortage of wood in the country and forestry is therefore a crucial economic activity. He is also concerned that Working for Water (WfW) is inactive in the region.

Dr Thomas Gyedu-Ababio from South African National Parks (SANParks) said that other water management recommendations for the region should still be considered, even if the construction of the Nwamitwa Dam should go ahead. Afforestation is a concern seeing that marked improvement was seen in stream flow in the area when sections of plantations burned down. Dr Gyedu-Ababio is also concerned that allocations for the Kruger National Park (KNP) and the allocations for the ecological Reserve from the Tzaneen Dam will be affected by the proposed Nwamitwa Dam. Dr Gyedu-Ababio remarked that sedimentation was not mentioned in the presentation and said that it can be expected that the KNP will be affected by sedimentation from the proposed Nwamitwa dam.

Mr Pullen replied that the option investigated during the feasibility studies regarding deforestation indicated that this was not socio-economically desirable. Theoretical increases in streamflow resulting from deforestation and the regeneration of natural vegetation were found to be too low to provide sufficient increases in reliable yield from the river system for other users. The removal of plantations could have vast socio-economic impacts in the region and was never recommended in the feasibility study.

Regarding the ecological Reserve, Mr Pullen said that the Reserve is the minimum streamflow pattern necessary to sustain ecological life in the river. The Reserve for a river can be determined but is difficult to implement in practice. The GLeWaP will enable the Department to better regulate water allocations to the ecological Reserve.

Regarding sedimentation from the proposed dam, Mr Pullen said that evaporation and sedimentation are the two enemies of dam builders. It is expected that sediment will accumulate in the dam basin and this is provided for in the design. Some changes in erosion and sediment deposition in the river downstream of the dam can be expected and the Reserve is calculated inter alia, to maintain a sustainable river morphology (physical shape and stability).

Mr John van Zetten from Tivani said that South Africa is becoming drier due to global warming and this should be taken into consideration when planning for maximising water use from the dam. Ms Baker said that global warming and consequent climate change in South Africa will be considered during the EIA.

Ms Tshivhase asked which government body issues a water use licence to the Department, seeing that the Department is the implementing agent for the project and cannot issue a water use licence to itself. Mr Van den Berg responded that the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry has authority in terms of the National Water Act to construct Government Water Works and will publish her intent in the Government Gazette when a decision on implementation has been made.

Ms Henriette Ferreira from the Hans Merensky Nature Reserve asked whether streamflow will increase or decrease, adding that any changes in streamflow will have impacts on storks, freshwater mussels, hippo, crocodile, and birds, such as Pell's Fishing Owl, in the nature reserve. Ms Baker asked that Ms Ferreira provide her contact details so that the relevant specialist can be put into contact with her. Mr Pullen said that the ecological Reserve for the river was determined taking these aspects into account. Streamfow would be

affected by more users having access to water but the flow pattern will be better regulated so that the ecological Reserve can be provided.

Dr Gyedu-Ababio said that he is concerned about Mr Pullen's statement that the ecological Reserve can be provided while streamflow would be decreased.

Mr Ramalepe requested that the naming of the dam should be a matter of careful consideration and that a neutral name that does not offend any relevant party should be chosen. Mr van den Berg explained that the process of deciding on the name for a dam would give opportunity for public input. He said that the name *Nwamitwa Dam* is only a temporary name that could be changed after careful consultation with the relevant parties.

Mr Gerhardt Vorster from Laeveld Sitrus: Groot Letaba Sentraal Boerevereeniging asked what the effect of the project will be on farms with successful land claims; i.e. in cases where land claims have been gazetted. Farmers still live on the land but are not allowed to plant or construct any buildings. Mr Vorster wanted to know how these farmers will be affected by the compensation and relocation process. Mr Pullen replied that increased pressure for the relocation of residents in the proposed dam area could result in the compensation and relocation process being accelerated. Mr Pullen said that the project team has had positive dealings with the Regional Land Claims Commissioner for the Limpopo Province and that this could be beneficial to the relocation and compensation process. Mr Pullen added that it was not clear what impact inundation will have on farms with land claims but that farmers will be compensated for actual losses.

Mr Booysen asked whether it is a given that the dam will be built. Mr Pullen explained that no decision has been taken yet about whether the dam would go ahead and that it will depend on a number of factors, such as environmental authorization. Mr Booysen also asked whether the raising of the Tzaneen Dam would only be possible if the Nwamitwa Dam was built. Mr Pullen replied that these are two separate proposals and not mutually dependent on each other.

Mr van Zetten asked whether funds for the dam will come from water users or government. Mr van den Berg explained that the total cost of the dam cannot be transferred to the users and therefore government will be the main funder of the dam. However, certain costs will be recovered through charges for water use and tariffs would be determined in accordance with DWAF's Pricing Strategy for Raw Water Charges.

#### 5.2.2 Issues arising from the meeting on 13 October 2007

Mr Hlamalani Khosa from Nwamitwa Village expressed concern about small farmers' access to water. According to him, farmers have been expecting water since 1994. Water is a big concern to small farmers and, although many schemes are built, results have not been seen. Mr Khosa asked when the dam will be built. He said that the long duration of the process is detrimental to communities and development in the area. He was also concerned that the Office of the Mayor is not represented in the process and that the project is not being discussed at Council meetings. Mr Khosa expressed his frustration with the role of the municipality in the process and said that the municipality was not playing any role in the proposed project or in the community.

Mr Daniel Mathye, a member of the Community Policing Forum, said that there is a shortage of drinking water in the area and confirmed that small farmers have difficulty accessing water. Councillor Emily Ramolefo also expressed her dissatisfaction with water supply to the community. She said that the community has not been told the truth about water supply and that boreholes that were promised have not been delivered. Mrs Makhawukane Ngobeni from the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality requested that water supply should not only serve the Nwamitwa community but should also be provided to the entire Greater Tzaneen area.

Councillor R.R. Selomo said that he welcomes the development and urged the community to be open to the process and transparent in their involvement in the process. He also said that the municipality should be kept informed about the process.

Mr Khosa said that plans should be put into place to ensure water supply before 2012, such as raising the Tzaneen Dam before the Nwamitwa Dam is built.

Councillor Rodney Malatji asked whether the dam would be a storage dam. He said that some dams only store water but do not supply water.

Mr Sam Kubayi from the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO) asked stakeholders to focus on the presentation and not on other issues. He asked whether water will come directly from the Department or whether water will be supplied to the municipality first and then to other users.

Ms Mokgadi Mmola from the Greater Tzaneen Municipality said that the community has attended meetings about the GLeWaP before and that the project is important for the local economic development (LED) strategy of the municipality. She requested that job creation should be given more attention in project planning. She said that the community should benefit from the project through job creation before water is even supplied. The youth should also be involved in the process.

Mr T K Nukeri was concerned that it was said at a previous meeting that handover of the dam would take place in March 2008 already.

Mrs Ngobeni asked whether the water will be distributed to households or to communal facilities.

Ms Norah Mongwe, a ward committee member for the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, asked whether the communities will pay for water.

Mr Khoza said that graves in the area should be taken into consideration when constructing the dam.

Mr Matukane explained the role of DWAF in developing water sources and providing bulk infrastructure. He pointed out that systems for providing water to users in villages are the responsibility of municipalities and DWAF assists them in this regard. Mr Khumbuza gave an overview of issues affecting the water supplies available from existing infrastructure.

# 5.3 Discussion on the contents of the Draft Scoping Report

#### 5.3.1 Issues arising from the meeting on 12 October 2007

Mr Booysen asked for the shape files of the maps in the Draft Scoping Report electronically. He enquired whether these files are available on CD or whether the EIA team will still provide it to him. Ms Baker replied that she will follow up on the matter.

Mr Ramalepe said that he appreciates the development of the dam but that part of the area that could be submerged is traditional and ancestral land of great value to the people and also that people reside in that area. Ruins, gravesites, and other places of importance, such as places of worship, could be affected by the construction of the dam. Mr Ramalepe requested an opportunity to show the EIA team the location of the mentioned sites. Mr Ramalepe added that the communities of the area did not have the opportunity to identify graves when the Tzaneen Dam was built and that there were still graves submerged in the dam. When water levels in the dam decrease during dry periods, some graves are visible next to the aqua park. He said that graves can be relocated but ancestral sites not. Ms Baker told Mr Ramalepe that the EIA team will put him into contact with Mr Johnny van Schalkwyk, the specialist that will be conducting the heritage study for the EIA. When the dam is being constructed, the Department will make sure that graves are relocated. The EIA team will provide the Department with the relevant information.

# Appendix A

# **List of Participants**

# PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD ON 12 AND 13 OCTOBER 2007

Name	Organisation	City
	Meeting held on Friday, 12 October 2007	
Mr Bernie Badenhorst	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	POLOKWANE
Ms Terry Baker	Iliso Consulting	HIGHVELD
Mr Werner Booysen	Secretary: Mooketsi Farmers Union	FAUNA PARK
Mr J J Du Toit	Belle Ambre	LETSITELE
Mnr Jacobus du Toit	Landowner: The Plains LT 828 PTN 0	LETSITELE
Mr/Ms Peter and Cherry Faul	Landowners: Riverside LT 514 GED 14	LETSITELE
Ms Hendriette Ferreira	Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism (Hans Merensky Nature Reserve)	LETSITELE
Mr Horst Gubitz en Seuns	Landowners: Gubitz Sitrus Plaas and Janetsi/Delhi Plaas	LETSITELE
Dr Thomas Gyedu-Ababio	South African National Parks	PHALABORWA
Mr Jimmy Makaringe	Nwamitwa Community Forum	NWAMITWA
Mr Daniel Malatji	South African National Civic Organisation	PATAMEDI
Ms Molly Maluleke	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	GIYANI
Mr Solly Manyaka	Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd	HALFWAY HOUSE
Mr Eddie Mashau	BKS (Pty) Ltd	THOHOYANDOU
Mr Ramaano Masibigiri	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	POLOKWANE
Ms Patience Mboweni	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	TZANEEN
Ms Charmain Mkhawana	Pfukani Youth Development	NWAMITWA
Mr David Mohwibidu	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	LENYENYE
Ms Wilheminah Mosupye	Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd	HALFWAY HOUSE
Ms Maggy Mqchumele	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	TZANEEN
Ms Masana Nkuna	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	GIYANI
Ms Anelle Odendaal	Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd	HALFWAY HOUSE
Mr David Phakula	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	TZANEEN
Mr R A Pullen	BKS (Pty) Ltd	PRETORIA
Mr Lekgolo Ramalepe	BaKgaga BaMaupa Communal Property Association	LENYENYE
Mr Israel Raphalalani	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	POLOKWANE
Ms Bridgett Sebothoma	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	TZANEEN
Ms Linda Sekgobela	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	TZANEEN
Mrs Andronica Sithole	Headman: Hlangwana Village	NWAMITWA
Ms Shoni Tshivhase	Road Agency Limpopo (Pty) Ltd	POLOKWANE
Mr Ockie van den Berg	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	PRETORIA
Mr Louis van Rooyen	Agri Letaba - Letaba Water Users Association	LETSITELE
Mr John van Zetten	Tivani (Pty) Ltd	LANSERIA
Mr Andre Venter	Letaba Water Users Association	TZANEEN
Mr Jurg Venter	Letaba Water Users Association	TZANEEN
Ms Alet Visser	Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd	HALFWAY HOUSE

4

Name	Organisation	City			
Mr Gerhardt Vorster	Laeveld Sitrus: Groot Letaba Sentraal Boerevereeniging	LETSITELE			
Mr Ben Vorster	Landowner: The Junction LT 521 GED 8	LETSITELE			
Meeting held on Saturday, 13 October 2007					
Ms Terry Baker	Iliso Consulting	HIGHVELD			
Cllr Colbert Baloyi	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality: Nwamitwa Ward 6	NWAMITWA			
Ms Gloria Chabalala	Water Committee: Nwamgololo Village	NWAMGOLOLO			
Mr Thompson Hlungwane	Nwamitwa Water Users Association	NWAMITWA			
Mr Hlamalani Khosa	Nwamitwa Village Resident	NWAMITWA			
Mr Brown Khumbuza	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	GIYANI			
Mr Sam Kubayi	South African National Civic Organisation	NWAMITWA			
Mr Ngoako Mahasha	In-Touch Community Development & Project	TZANEEN			
Mr Jimmy Makaringe	Nwamitwa Community Forum	NWAMITWA			
Mr William Makhubele	Nwamitwa Village Resident	NWAMITWA			
Mr Rodney Malatji	Ward Councillor: Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	SHIHOKO			
Mr Solly Manyaka	Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd	HALFWAY HOUSE			
Mrs Mavis Mapitja	Local Economic Development Officer: Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	TZANEEN			
Mr Eddie Mashau	BKS (Pty) Ltd	THOHOYANDOU			
Mr Jimmy Mathebula	Department of Labour	WITBANK			
Ms Violet Mathebula	Ward Committee: Nwamitwa Village	NWAMITWA			
Mr Daniel Mathye	Valoyi Tribal Authority and Community Policing Forum	NWAMITWA			
Mr Alson Matukane	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	POLOKWANE			
Hosi Walter Mbhalati	Acting Hosi: Nwamitwa Village and Valoyi Traditional Authority	NWAMITWA			
Mrs Irene Mhlongo	Water Committee Ward 01- Rikhotso Village	TZANEEN			
Ms M M Mhlongo	Ward Committee Member: Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	NWAMITWA			
Ms Mokgadi Mmola	Local Economic Development: Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	TZANEEN			
Ms Norah Mongwe	Ward Committee Member: Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	NWAMITWA			
Ms Wilheminah Mosupye	Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd	HALFWAY HOUSE			
Mrs Makhawukane Ngobeni	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	TZANEEN			
Mr Jameson Nkomo	Nwamitwa Water Users Association	NWAMITWA			
Mr T K Nukeri	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	LETSITELE			
Mr R A Pullen	BKS (Pty) Ltd	PRETORIA			
Mr Harrison Ramathoka	Nwamitwa Village Resident	MOKGWATI			
Cllr Emily Ramolefo	Councillor: Ward 2; Mokgwathi Village	NWAMITWA			
Mr Israel Raphalalani	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	POLOKWANE			
Mrs Maria Sathekge	Ward committee - Nwamitwa Villege	GA-KGAPANE			
Cllr R R Selomo	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	TZANEEN			
Ms Mosibudi Seshoene	Ward committee member: Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality	GA-KGAPAME			
Mrs Idah Shisinga	Induna: Gwazana; Valoyi Tribe	NWAMITWA			
Mr Ockie van den Berg	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	PRETORIA			
Ms Alet Visser	Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd	HALFWAY HOUSE			