

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE SCOPING PHASE

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Public participation is an essential and legislative requirement for environmental authorisation. The principles that necessitate communication with society at large are best embodied in the principles of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, **Chapter 1**), South Africa's overarching environmental law. In addition, the Generic Public Participation Guidelines 2001 of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry contain further guidelines for public participation.

The public participation process for the Groot Letaba River Water Development Project (GLeWaP) has been designed to satisfy the requirements laid down in the above legislation and guidelines. **Figure 7.1** provides an overview of the EIA technical and public participation processes, and shows how issues and concerns raised by the public are used to inform the technical investigations of the EIA at various milestones during the process. This section of the report highlights the key elements of the public participation process to date.

7.2 OBJECTIVES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE EIA

The objectives of public participation in an EIA are to provide sufficient and accessible information to I&APs in an objective manner to assist them to:

- During Scoping:
- Identify issues of concern, and provide suggestions for enhanced benefits and alternatives.
- Contribute local knowledge and experience.
- Verify that their issues have been considered.

During the Impact Assessment:

- Verify that their issues have been considered either by the EIA Specialist Studies, or elsewhere.
- Comment on the findings of the EIA, including the measures that have been proposed to enhance positive impacts and reduce or avoid negative ones.

The key objective of public participation during Scoping is to help define the scope of the technical studies to be undertaken during the Impact Assessment.

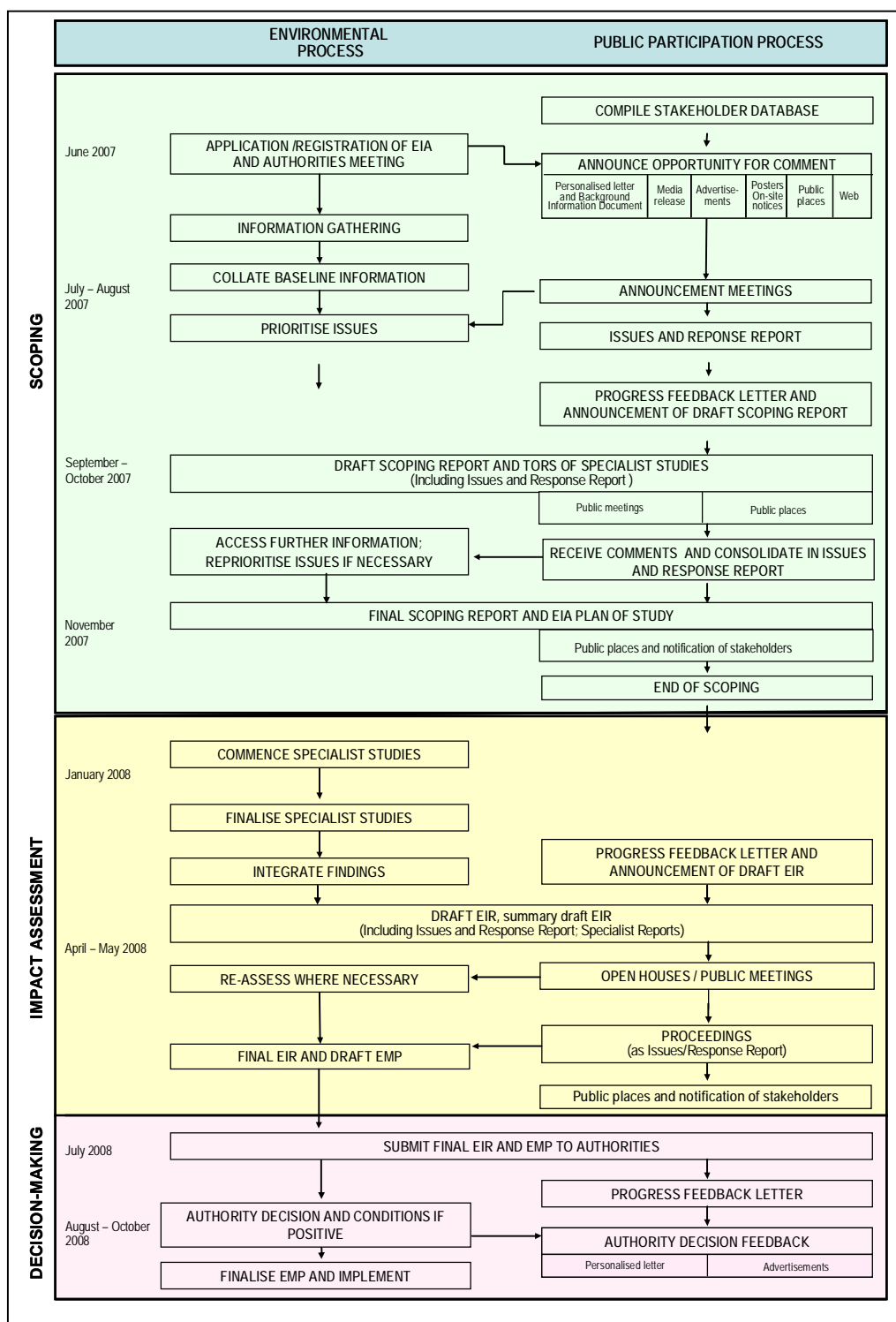


Figure 7.1: Technical and public participation process and activities that comprise the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Groot Letaba River Water Development Project

7.3 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

The direct mailing list for this EIA consists of almost 1 350 individuals and organisations from both within the project area and beyond its boundaries (**Appendix B**). These include all those I&APs that expressed an interest during the Announcement Phase of the project between July and August 2007. **Table 7.1** shows that these I&APs represent a broad spectrum of sectors of society. Consultation has taken place with representatives of different sectors of society, rather than with every individual in the project area. Nevertheless, special efforts were made to obtain the contributions of all people who may be affected directly by the proposed project.

Table 7.1: Sectors of society represented by I&APs on the direct mailing list

q National government	q Local landowners (In the dam basin area)	q Non Government Organisations (NGOs)
q Provincial government (Limpopo)	q Local communities, including tribal authorities, women's groups, development committees and other community based organisations (CBOs) in the project area	q Ratepayers Associations
q Local government (district as well as local municipalities)	q Media (print and broadcast)	q Researchers and consultants
q Organised agriculture	q Labour unions	q Tourism
q Business/Commerce	q Water organisations (Irrigation Boards, Water Boards, Water Committees, and Water User Associations)	q Transport
q Environmental and conservation organisations		
q Health		
q Industry		
q Education: local schools and universities		

7.4 ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME INVOLVED

The opportunity to participate in the EIA was announced in July and early August 2007 in four languages (English, XiTsonga, Sepedi and Afrikaans) as follows:

- Telephonic notification to the directly affected landowners on the farms directly affected by the proposed dam.
- Five meetings with stakeholders in the project area. See details below in **Table 7.2**.
- Distribution of a letter of invitation to become involved, addressed to individuals and organisations by name, accompanied by a Background Information Document containing details of the proposed project including maps of the

project area and the dam site, and a registration sheet (**Table 7.3** and **Appendix D**).

- Leaving the Background Information Document (**Appendix D**) at public places in the study area (**Table 7.4**).
- Advertisements (**Appendix D**) in the media (**Table 5.7**).



Plate 7.1: Example of advertisement

- Project notice boards at the following localities along roads in the project area:
 - Tzaneen Dam;



Plate 7.2: Notice at the Tzaneen Dam

- At the Tarentaal Friendly Grocer shop and service station on the R71 on route to the proposed dam site;
- At the crossing with the R71 and the road from Taganashoek – on route to the proposed dam site;
- At the crossing with the R71 and the road towards/from Giyani (R529);
- At the Caltex Service Station, close to The Junction at the Letaba River;
- At the crossing with the R71 and the road towards/from Letsitele/Lydenburg (R529);
- Close to the proposed dam site on the road reserve at the Gubitz Farm (Delhi);and



Plate 7.3: Notice board on the road reserve at the Gubitz Farm

- Close to the proposed dam site on the road reserve at the farm La Gratitude.
- All documentation published on the project web site - www.dwaf.gov.za/projects/GrootLetaba

Table 7.2: List of meetings held during the announcement of the EIA

Date	Venue	Time	Attended by:
Monday, 30 July 2007	Mopani District Municipality, Banquet Hall, Giyani	09:00 – 15:00	Key stakeholders and authorities
Tuesday, 31 July 2007	Fair View Country Lodge, Tzaneen	09:00 – 13:00	Key stakeholder and authorities
Tuesday, 31 July 2007	Groot Letaba Water User Association's offices, Tzaneen	14:00 – 16:00	Members of the Groot Letaba Water User Association's management board, representatives of irrigation boards and major water users
Wednesday, 1 August 2007	Tribal Council offices, Nwamitwa	09:00 – 13:00	Nwamitwa community, Ward Councillors, Chief Valoyi. Hosi Nwamitwa
Wednesday, 1 August 2007	The Letaba Junction, Letsitele	14:00 – 16:00	Directly affected land owners in the dam basin area

Table 7.3: Project announcement distribution data

Distribution	English	Afrikaans	Sepedi and Xonga
By mail, leaving in public places and leaving with stakeholders during meetings			
Almost 1 350 stakeholders on direct mailing list.	800	200	350
Nine newspapers and three radio stations.	20	20	20
Public places (e.g. libraries, post offices, office receptions of stakeholder organisations, etc).	150	50	80
During meetings as mentioned in Table 7.2	400	200	300
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry project and study teams and Limpopo Regional Office	100	100	150

Table 7.4: Public places where BIDs were available

Town/area/district	Locality	Contact person	Telephone
Giyani	Mopani District Municipality	Mr Timothy Maake Municipal Manager	(015) 811 6300
Giyani	Great North Farmers	Mr PM Mathe President and member	(015) 812 2913
Tzaneen	Greater Tzaneen Municipality	Mr Mabakane Mangena Municipal Manager	(015) 307 8000
Modjadiskloof	Greater Letaba Municipality	Mr IP Mutshinyali Municipal Manager	(015) 309 9246
Giyani	Greater Giyani Municipality	Mr Silence Makhubele Municipal Manager	(015) 811 5500/44
Phalaborwa	BaPhalaborwa Municipality	Office of the Municipal Manager	(015) 780 6301

Table 7.5: Advertisements to announce opportunity to contribute to the EIA

Advertisements/announcements	Date published/announced
Newspapers	
Bulletin	20 July 2007
Ekasi bulletin	20 July 2007
Letaba Herald	19 July 2007
Seipone	18 July 2007
Agri Spectrum	25 July 2007
Northern Review	19 July 2007
Capricorn Voice	18 July 2007
Mopani News	19 July 2007
Polokwane Observer	19 July 2007
* Several newspapers such as the Daily Sun, Letaba Herald and others published information about the proposed project.	
Radio Stations	
Munghana Lonene FM, Polokwane	During the week of Monday 16 July - 20 July 2007
Thobela FM, Polokwane	During the week of Monday 16 July - 20 July 2007
Greater Lebowakgomo	During the week of Monday 16 July - 20 July 2007
Radio Sekgosese	During the week of Monday 16 July - 20 July 2007
Radio Univen	During the week of Monday 16 July - 20 July 2007
* Several other radio stations such as Jacaranda, RSG, Radio Botlokwa also announced information about the project	

7.4.1 Parallel stakeholder liaison by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

In addition to the public participation process for the EIA, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has initiated several parallel stakeholder liaison initiatives for the project as a whole. Issues relevant to the EIA identified during these initiatives are incorporated into the process on an ongoing basis.

Table 7.6 lists the Department's formal liaison structures for this project, their purpose and representivity. **Table 7.7** lists additional Departmental liaison activities.

Table 7.6: Department of Water Affairs and Forestry formal liaison structures established for the Groot Letaba River Water Development Project.

Liaison Structure	Purpose	Representivity
Project Steering Committee (Meetings already took place on 29 March and 29 August 2007)	Guidance pertaining to strategic issues related to the project, including international matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and other relevant national departments (DEAT, Treasury) § Limpopo Government § Municipalities in the project area § Key sectors such as conservation
International Liaison Strategy Committee	Liaison with neighbouring states	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry – specifically members that liaise with the Limpopo Basin Permanent Technical Committee
Institutional and Finance Strategy Committee	Strategic guidance relating to the development of institutional arrangements and financing matters	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry: Directorates
Project Management and Co-ordination Team	To co-ordinate and synchronize all the activities, to ensure efficient communication and to manage components and phases of the project	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry: Options Analysis and other nominated members

Table 7.7: Departmental stakeholder liaison outside formal structures

Sector/Organisation	Purpose	Activity
Various National, Provincial and Local Government Authorities	To promote cooperative governance by providing them with project information, obtain their comment and support	Written invitations by Director General, presentation at various occasions (May, August 2007, etc)
Local authorities	To be informed of water requirements; to reach agreement on off-take points	Various meetings
National and Provincial Roads Authorities	To deliberate road realignments and diversions, and new road infrastructure	Various meetings
Eskom	To discuss electricity requirements and supply	Various meetings
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism	To discuss the Environmental Impact Assessment	Various meetings

7.5 DRAFT SCOPING REPORT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

7.5.1 Draft Scoping Report

The purpose of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) (this report) is to enable I&APs to verify that their contributions have been captured, understood and correctly interpreted. The issues identified by the I&APs and by the environmental technical specialists, have been used to define the Terms of Reference for the Specialist Studies that will be conducted during the Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA. A period of four weeks is available for public review of this report (from Wednesday, 3 October – Wednesday 31 October 2007).

In addition, a Summary of the DSR has been compiled and translated into Afrikaans, XiTsonga and Sepedi, and proactively mailed to all key stakeholders as well as those who requested copies.

In addition to media advertisements to announce the opportunity to participate in the EIA, the opportunity for public review was announced as follows:

- In the Background Information Document (**Appendix D**).
- At various meetings (as outlined previously).

- In a letter sent out in September 2007 (**Appendix D**), and addressed personally to almost 1 350 individuals and organisations. The letter included a reply sheet for stakeholders to request their own copies of the report, and to register for one of the three public meetings that will be held from 11 – 13 October 2007.
- Radio announcements on regional radio stations.
- Telephone calls to key stakeholder organisations.

The Draft Scoping Report, including the Issues and Response Report, and its Summary (in Afrikaans, XiTsonga and Sepedi) was distributed for comment as follows:

- Left in public places throughout the project area and beyond (**Table 7.8**).
- Mailed to key stakeholders.
- Mailed to I&APs who requested the report.
- Distributed at the public meetings (Section 6.1).
- Posted on the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's web site.

I&APs can comment on the report in various ways, such as completing the comment sheet accompanying the report, submitting individual comments in writing or by email, attending public meetings and one-on-one discussions with members of the EIA team during the meetings.

7.5.2 Review of the Draft Scoping Report

Public meetings will be held to assist I&APs to comment on the Draft Scoping Report and to raise additional issues that may be considered necessary. The contents of the report will be presented verbally during the meetings. Each meeting will also have a visual component to stimulate small-group discussions with members of the EIA team in the language of choice of I&APs. **Table 7.8** lists these meetings, their times and venues.

Consolidated proceedings of the three meetings will be distributed to everyone who attended with a request to verify that their contributions were recorded correctly. Any new issues that are raised will be captured in the Final Scoping Report.

Table 7.8: List of public places in the project area and beyond where Background Information Documents and the Draft Scoping Report were lodged for public review

Town/area/district	Locality	Contact person	Telephone
Mokwakwaela area, Letaba	Mokwakwaela Multi Purpose Community Centre	Mr Shilubane	082-453 3774
Sekgosese area, Duiwelskloof, Letaba	Sekgosese Multi Purpose Community Centre	Mr MC Tshamamo	083 289 7955
Modjadjiskloof area, Letaba	Greater Letaba Local Municipality	Mrs H Kruger	(015) 309-9246/7
Letaba region	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	Ms Morongwa Mbhalati	(076) 931 6177
Tzaneen area, City Centre	Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality Agatha Street, Civic Centre, Tzaneen	HOD: Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000
Shilubane village, Tzaneen	Vula Mehlo Multi Purpose Community-Thusong Centre	HOD: Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000
Tzaneen	Tzaneen Public Library	HOD: Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000
Letsitele area	Letsitele Public Library	HOD Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000
Haenertzburg	Haenertzburg Public Library, Mare Street, Community Centre	Ms Minnie de Villiers	(015) 276 4707
Tzaneen area, Letsitele	Agri Letaba	Mr Louis van Rooyen	(015) 345 1817
Tzaneen	Groot Letaba Water Users Association Offices	Mr Jurg Venter	(015) 307 2651
Tzaneen	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	Mr Jakkie Venter/ Mr Isaac Nyatlo	(015) 307 3627/ 8600
Khopo village, Tzaneen	Lesedi Thusong Centre	HOD: Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000
Xihoko village, Tzaneen	Xihoko Multi Purpose Community Centre	HOD: Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000
Nwamitwa village, Tzaneen	Valoyi Traditional office	HOD: Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000

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Town/area/district	Locality	Contact person	Telephone
Nwamitwa village, Tzaneen	Nwamitwa Traditional office	HOD: Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000
Nkowankowa, Tzaneen	Nkowankowa Multi Purpose Community Centre, Nkowankowa	HOD: Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000
Relela village, Tzaneen	Relela Multi Purpose Community Thusong Centre	HOD: Public Participation: Mr Moroka Molale HOD Communication: Mr ZS Mkhathshwa	(015) 307 8000
Dzumeri village, Giyani	Dzumeri Community Centre	Office of the Municipal Manager	(015) 812 5233
Giyani	Greater Giyani Local Municipality	Office of the Municipal Manager	(015) 812 5233
Giyani, Mopani District	Mopani District Municipality	Office of the Municipal Manager	(015) 811 5500
Giyani, Mopani District	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	Mrs Matsie Molapisane	(015) 812 0090
Phalaborwa	Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality	Ms Riana Smit	(015) 780 6302
Namakgale, Phalaborwa	Namakgale Police Station Calvin Ngobeni Street, opposite Sediba Accommodation and next to magistrate offices	Station Commissioner	(015) 769 1530
Polokwane	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	Ms Sarah Mamabolo/ Mrs Leah Matlala	(015) 290 1444
Mokwakwaela area, Letaba	1.1.1.a.2 Mokwakwaela Multi Purpose Community Centre	Mr Shilubane	082-453 3774
Sekgosese area, Duiwelskloof, Letaba	Sekgosese Multi Purpose Community Centre	Mr MC Tshamamo	083 289 7955
Modjadiskloof area, Letaba	Greater Letaba Local Municipality	Mrs H Kruger	(015) 309-9246/7
Letaba region	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	Ms Morongwa Mbhalati	(076) 931 6177

7.5.3 Obtaining comment and contributions

The following opportunities were (and remain) available during Scoping for I&APs to contribute comment:

- Completing and returning registration sheets on which space was provided for comment.
- Providing comment telephonically or by email to the public participation office.
- Three public meetings with stakeholders in the project area (**Table 7.9**).

Table 7.9: Public meetings to comment on the Draft Scoping Report

Date	Venue	Time
Friday, 12 October 2007	Tzaneen Lodge	08:30 – 13:00
Saturday, 13 October 2007	Runnymede Thusong Centre, Nwamitwa Village	08:30 – 13:00

7.5.4 Final Scoping Report

The Final Scoping Report will be prepared after the public comment period. It will be updated with any additional issues raised by I&APs and will contain any new information that may have been generated as a result of this process. It will be distributed to the Authorities and key I&APs, and to those individuals who specifically request a copy. I&APs will be notified of the availability of the report.

Once the lead authority for the EIA has approved the Final Scoping Report, the Impact Assessment Phase of the EIA will commence.

7.6 ISSUES AND RESPONSE REPORT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Issues raised thus far, including issues raised during the Announcement Phase, are captured in an Issues and Response Report, appended to this DSR (**Appendix C**). This report will be updated to include any additional I&AP contributions that may be received as the EIA process proceeds, and as the findings of the EIA become available.

The contributions made by I&APs are acknowledged in writing.