



# forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/3124  
**Enquiries:** Ms Trisha Pillay  
**Telephone:** (012) 399 9406 **Email:** [tpillay@dff.gov.za](mailto:tpillay@dff.gov.za)

Ms Vuyiswa Radebe  
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife  
PO BOX 13053  
**CASCADES**  
3202

Telephone Number: (033) 845 1999  
Email Address: [irene.hatton@kznwildlife.com](mailto:irene.hatton@kznwildlife.com)

## PER EMAIL

Dear Ms Radebe

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MPILA STAFF ACCOMMODATION WITHIN THE BIG FIVE HLABISA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, UMKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, of the decision, as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R5985 in Government Gazette No. 52269 dated 13 March 2025 (National Appeal Regulations, 2025), which prescribe the appeal procedure to be followed.



**Batho pele** – putting people first

The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and/or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others.

Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2025) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within twenty (20) days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

**Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:**

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: [appeals@dffe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dffe.gov.za)

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia  
**PRETORIA**  
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447  
**PRETORIA**  
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal> authorisations or request a copy of the documents at [appeals@dffe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dffe.gov.za).

Yours faithfully

  
**Dr Sabelo Malaza**  
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment

Date: 15/09/2025

cc.	Dustin Bell	EnviroPro	Email: <a href="mailto:dustin@enviropro.co.za">dustin@enviropro.co.za</a>
	Happy Khambule	KZN EDTEA (uMkanyakude District)	Email: <a href="mailto:Happy.khambule@kznedtea.gov.za">Happy.khambule@kznedtea.gov.za</a>
	Nompilo Nene	Big Five Hlabisa Local Municipality	Email: <a href="mailto:Nompilonene14@gmail.com">Nompilonene14@gmail.com</a>



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MPILA STAFF ACCOMMODATION WITHIN THE BIG FIVE HLABISA  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**uMkhanyakude District Municipality**

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/3124</i>
<b>Last amended:</b>	<i>First issue</i>
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	<i>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife</i>
<b>Location of activity:</b>	<i>Portion 11 of Game Reserve No. 17434; Big Five Hlabisa Local Municipality; uMkhanyakude District Municipality; and KwaZulu-Natal Province.</i>

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

*MS*

## Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

## Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

### **EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE**

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Ms Vuyiswa Radebe  
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife  
PO BOX 13053

### **CASCADES**

3202

Telephone Number: (033) 845 1999

Email Address: [Irene.hatton@kznwildlife.com](mailto:Irene.hatton@kznwildlife.com)

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p><i>d. KwaZulu-Natal</i></p> <p><i>viii. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies."</i></p>	<p>The construction of the Mpila Camp staff accommodation blocks A and B and septic tanks will require the clearance of approximately 1593m<sup>2</sup> of indigenous vegetation located within the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated June 2025 at:

**SG 21 Digit Code:**

Farm Description	21 Digit Surveyor General Code
Portion 11 of Game Reserve No. 17434	N0GU00000001743400011

**Coordinates**

Point	Longitude (S)	Latitude (E)
<b>Accommodation Block A</b>		
Corner 1	28°18'39.22"S	31°51'37.60"E
Corner 2	28°18'38.62"S	31°51'38.26"E
Corner 3	28°18'38.91"S	31°51'38.55"E
Corner 4	28°18'39.50"S	31°51'37.87"E
<b>Accommodation Block B</b>		
Corner 1	28°18'38.41"S	31°51'38.47"E
Corner 2	28°18'37.85"S	31°51'39.15"E
Corner 3	28°18'38.11"S	31°51'39.44"E
Corner 4	28°18'38.70"S	31°51'38.78"E
<b>Septic Tank</b>		
Septic Tank 1	28°18'37.33"S	31°51'36.58"E
Septic Tank 2	28°18'36.83"S	31°51'38.41"E

Septic Tank 3	28°18'34.94"S	31°51'40.86"E
<b>Construction Points</b>		
Northern Point of Construction	28°18'37.60"S	31°51'39.19"E
Centre Point of Construction	28°18'38.61"S	31°51'38.55"E
Southern Point of Construction	28°18'39.62"S	31°51'37.89"E

- for the development of the Mpila Staff accommodation within the Big Five Hlabisa Local Municipality, uMkhanyakude District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal Province, hereafter referred to as "the property."

The project will include the following:

- a) Staff accommodation blocks A and B (staff accommodation blocks will each comprise of six (6) units each);  
and
- b) New septic tanks.

## **Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation**

### **Scope of authorisation**

1. The development of the Mpila Staff accommodation within the Big Five Hlabisa Local Municipality, uMkhanyakude District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal Province as described above, are hereby approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised must only be conducted at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be affected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.

6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site. The continuation of any such activities after the above-mentioned period has lapsed may trigger one or more listed and/or specified activities, including activity 32 of Listing Notice 1. Such continuation without the required Environmental Authorisation will constitute an offence or offences in terms of section 49A(1)(a) read with section 24F(1)(a) of National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

#### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
  - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2025;
  - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

#### **Commencement of the activity**

12. The authorised activity must not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2025, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

### **Management of the activity**

13. The final layout plan titled "*MPILA CAMP STAFF ACCOMMODATION*" attached as Appendix A3 in the final BAR dated June 2025 is hereby approved.
14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the final BAR dated June 2025 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to
15. The EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development.
16. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
17. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr, should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

### **Frequency and process of updating the EMPr**

18. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation or EMPr.
19. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
21. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
22. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure

plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

## Monitoring

23. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this Environmental Authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
  - 23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
  - 23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
  - 23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
  - 23.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

## Recording and reporting to the Department

24. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this Environmental Authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at [Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za).
25. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at [Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za](mailto:Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za).
26. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, considering the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
27. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e., within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
28. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the

audit in terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.

29. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

#### **Notification to authorities**

30. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

#### **Operation of the activity**

31. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

#### **Site closure and decommissioning**

32. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.

#### **Specific conditions**

33. The footprint area of the construction must be kept to a minimum. The footprint area must be clearly demarcated to avoid unnecessary disturbances to adjacent areas.
34. Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or nationally protected species.
35. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be used.
36. The Spill Contingency Plan, Stormwater Management Plan and the Rehabilitation Plan must be strictly adhered to.
37. A Maintenance Plan for the septic tank must be compiled and form part of the EMPr prior to construction to avoid any future run-off of effluent and grey water to the surface.

38. If any archaeological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development, then work in the immediate area must be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.
39. Construction must include design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
40. Mitigation measures detailed within the Basic Assessment Report, specialist assessments and technical studies are to be implemented.
41. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, reuse, and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

### **General**

42. The recommendations of the EAP in the BAR dated June 2025 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.
43. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 43.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
  - 43.2. to anyone on request; and
  - 43.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

44. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 15/09/2025



Dr Sabelo Malaza  
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment

## Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

### 1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activity as applied for in the application form received on 28 March 2025.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated June 2025.
- c) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated June 2025.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated June 2025 and the EMPr dated December 2024.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated June 2025 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date issued
Wetland & Ecological Assessment	SDP Ecological and Environmental Services	July 2021
Desktop Paleontological Assessment	eThembeni Cultural Heritage Management	June 2023

### 2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was considered in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The existing staff accommodation has fallen into disrepair and is no longer safe for habitation by the Mpila Camp staff and needs to be upgraded.
- c) The BAR dated June 2025 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated June 2025 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

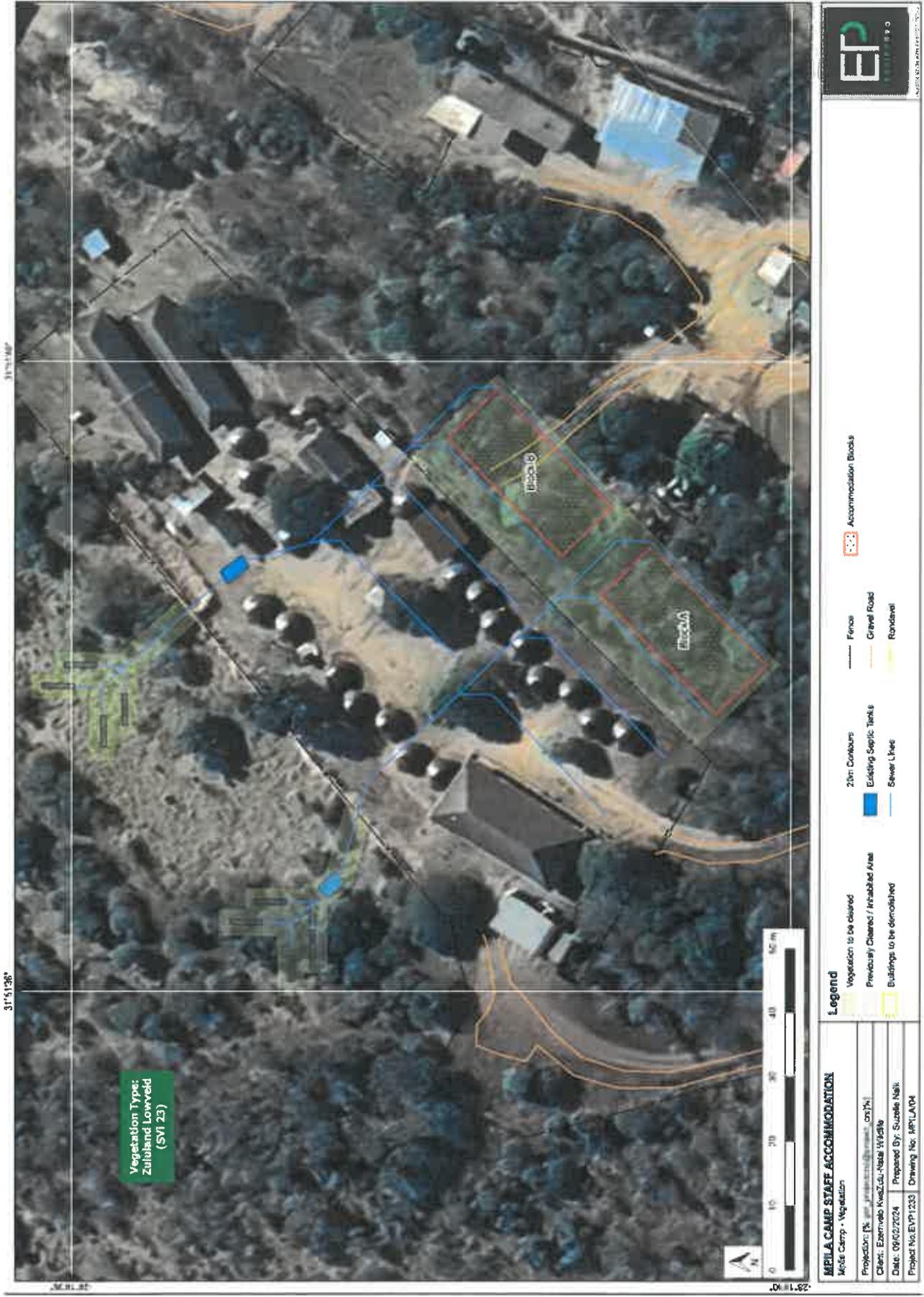
### 3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated June 2025 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the BAR dated June 2025 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the Environmental Authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. **The Environmental Authorisation is accordingly granted.**

# Annexure 2: Layout Plan



Vegetation Type:  
 Zuluhand Lowveld  
 (SVI 23)



- Legend**
- Vegetation to be cleared
  - Previously Cleared / Instabile Area
  - Buildings to be demolished
  - 20m Contours
  - Existing Septic Tanks
  - Sewer Lines
  - Fence
  - Gravel Road
  - Roadway
  - Accommodation Blocks

<b>MELA CAMP STAFF ACCOMMODATION</b>	
MELA Camp - Vegetation	
Projection: [K...]	on [M...]
Client: Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife	
Date: 09/02/2024	Prepared By: Suzanne Nelk
Project No: EVM1233	Drawing No: MFLA104

*M.S*