

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR  
ESKOM'S NORTHERN KZN STRENGTHENING PROJECT  
MINUTES FOR FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE**

<b>Venue</b>	Pietermaritzburg	<b>Date</b>	09 September 2016	<b>Time</b>	09H00
<b>Chairperson</b>	Terry Calmeyer		<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	Motlagomang Mosina	

Item	Description
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Ms Calmeyer welcomed everyone to the meeting and this was followed by a round of introduction.</p> <p>The attendance register was circulated and is attached as <b>Appendix A</b>.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Purpose of the meeting and Acceptance of Agenda</b></p> <p>Ms Calmeyer explained that the purpose of the Focus Group meeting is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To introduce the proposed project to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) and initiate discussions as part of the EIA process;</li> <li>• To outline the environmental Authorisation (EA) process that will be followed in undertaking the EIA process; and</li> <li>• To provide an opportunity for EKZNW to provide inputs in the EIA process.</li> </ul> <p>The agenda was accepted without any changes.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Background, need, motivation and description of the proposed project</b></p> <p>Mr Burger gave a technical presentation of the project and this included the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Need and Motivation of the project;</li> <li>• Planning Requirements;</li> <li>• The Transmission Scope; and</li> <li>• The Distribution Scope.</li> </ul> <p>The Presentation is attached as <b>Appendix B</b>.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b></p> <p>Ms Calmeyer gave an introduction to the project and her presentations included the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of alternative corridors for the powerlines;</li> <li>• The Municipalities and Wards within the study area;</li> <li>• The Landuse at the substation sites;</li> <li>• The protected and critical biodiversity areas within the study area; and</li> <li>• The anticipated programme for the EIA.</li> </ul> <p>The Presentation is attached as <b>Appendix C</b>.</p>

<b>5</b>	<p><b>Discussion and Questions Session</b></p> <p>The floor was opened for discussions and questions and the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Thambu enquired how the project team will guarantee that the EA outcome of the different project phases will compliment each other.</li> </ul> <p>Ms Calmeyer indicated that although three separate EA application forms will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), namely (i) for the 400/134kV Iphiva substation and the Normandie-Iphiva transmission line, (ii) for the Iphiva-Duma 400kV Transmission powerline, and (iii) for the distribution lines, one integrated EIA is being undertaken and one set of reports will be produced. The impacts of the projects on each other will therefore be considered.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Specific Requirements from EKZNW</b></p> <p>Ms Thambu pointed out the specific requirements of the EKZNW and the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A general ecologist specialist will be required in order to cover broad ecological issues;</li> <li>There is a minimum requirements document that should be considered, and it will be made available to the project team, she furthermore encouraged compliance to the requirements unless the specialist can substantiate the use of a different method;</li> <li>Portion of the study area is within the Pondoland-Albany biodiversity hotspot and has Red data and Endemic listed species.</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Discussion &amp; Question Session</b></p> <p>The floor was opened for discussions and questions, the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Calmeyer enquired whether Ms Thambu received the shapefiles she requested. Ms Thambu mentioned that she did receive all shape files as requested from the project team. Ms Calmeyer pointed out that the updated shapefiles will be made available as and when changes are made.</li> <li>Ms Thambu mentioned that the EAP should request the latest shapefiles from them.</li> <li>Ms Thambu pointed out the study area lies at the edge of Isimangaliso Wetland Park's buffer zone and they should be contacted.</li> <li>Ms Thambu mentioned that she will enquire of the possibility of acquiring the data list of the landowners within the KZN wildlife game reserves to make it available to the team, but however mentioned that such information is subject to confidentiality.</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>The Way Forward and Closure</b></p> <p>Ms Calmeyer thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10:20.</p>