

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR ESKOM'S
NORTHERN KWAZULU-NATAL STRENGTHENING PROJECT**

SCOPING PHASE

**RECORD OF MEETING WITH
GUMBI TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

(27 SEPTEMBER 2016)

OUTLINE

These minutes provide a record of meeting held with **Gumbi Traditional Council**.

For the benefit of all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), a list of all community meetings held is provided hereunder. For ease of reference, a separate record for each meeting has been prepared.

These meetings were conducted as part of the Public Participation Process, which was designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to all I&APs during the Scoping Phase.

NO	MEETING WITH	VENUE	DATE
1	Makhasa Traditional Council	Makhasa Tribal Court (Hluhluwe)	12 Sept 2016
2	Nibela Traditional Council	Nibela Tribal Court (Hluhluwe)	13 Sept 2016
3	AbakwaHlabisa Traditional Council	AbakwaHlabisa Tribal Court (Hlabisa)	14 Sept 2016
4	Mdletshe Traditional Council	Mdletshe Tribal Court (Hlabisa)	14 Sept 2016
5	Mpembeni Traditional Council	Mpembeni Tribal Court (Hlabisa)	15 Sept 2016
6	Myeni/Ntsinde Traditional Council	Myeni Tribal Court (Obonjeni)	20 Sept 2016
7	Ngwenya/Ntsinde Traditional Council	Ngwenya Tribal Court (Mkuze)	20 Sept 2016
8	Ndlangamandla Traditional Council	Ndlangamandla Tribal Court (Pongola)	21 Sept 2016
9	Sibiya Traditional Council	Sibiya Tribal Court (Pongola)	22 Sept 2016
10	Msibi Traditional Council	Msibi Tribal Court (Emgulatshani)	23 Sept 2016
11	Simelane Traditional Council	Simelane Tribal Court (Pongola)	26 Sept 2016
12	Gumbi Traditional Council	Gumbi Tribal Court (Pongola)	27 Sept 2016
13	Emgazini Traditional Council	Emgazini Tribal Court (Pongola)	28 Sept 2016
14	Ntshangase Traditional Council	Ntshangase Tribal Court (Pongola)	29 Sept 2016
15	Mavuso Traditional Council	Mavuso Tribal Court (Pongola)	03 Oct 2016
16	Klwana Traditional Council	Klwana Tribal Court (Piet Retief)	03 Oct 2016
17	Msiyane Traditional Council	Msiyane Tribal Court (Louwsberg)	04 Oct 2016
18	Empangisweni Traditional Council	Empangisweni Tribal Court (Langkraans)	05 Oct 2016
19	Khambi Traditional Council	Khambi Tribal Court (Gluckstadt)	06 Oct 2016
20	Emathongeni Traditional Council	Emathongeni Tribal Court (Vryheid)	07 Oct 2016
21	Hlahlindlela Traditional Council	Hlahlindlela Tribal Court (Swart Umfolozi)	12 Oct 2016
22	Othaka Traditional Council	Othaka Tribal Court (Nqutu)	12 Oct 2016
23	Mandlakazi Traditional Council	Mandlakazi Tribal Court (Emondlo)	13 Oct 2016
24	Usuthu Traditional Council	Usuthu Tribal Court (Nongoma)	13 Oct 2016
25	Dlamini Traditional Council	Dlamini Tribal Court (Nongoma)	18 Oct 2016
26	Ndlela Traditional Council	Ndlela Tribal Court (Paulpietersberg)	18 Oct 2016
27	Bhovungane Traditional Council	Bhovungane Tribal Court (Paulpietersburg)	19 Oct 2016
28	Mthethwa Traditional Council	Mthethwa Tribal Court (Paulpietersburg)	20 Oct 2016
29	Mpukunyoni Traditional Council	Mpukunyoni Tribal Court (Paulpietersburg)	21 Oct 2016
30	Usuthu Traditional Council	Usuthu Tribal Court (Mtubatuba)	25 Oct 2016
31	Gumbi Traditional Council	Gumbi Tribal Court (Nongoma)	26 Oct 2016
32	Mandlakazi Traditional Council	Mandlakazi Tribal Court (Pongola)	28 Oct 2016

Table 1: List of traditional council and community meetings held during Scoping Phase

Please note the following:

- In some instances, and where possible, two sessions of community meetings were held in one day. First session held at 10h00 and the second session held at 14h00.
- Two sessions were held with Gumbi Traditional Council. The first and second session were held on 27 September 2016 and 26 October 2016 respectively.
- The first meeting with Usuthu Traditional Council scheduled for 13 October 2016 was cancelled due to inaccessibility to the area and bad weather. A repeat meeting was successfully held on 25 October 2016.
- The first meeting with Mandlakazi Traditional Council scheduled for 13 October 2016 was cancelled due to bad weather and lack of representation. The second meeting was successfully held on 28 October 2016.

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1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Attendance – Gumbi Traditional Council

Annexure A provides a list of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) who attended the meeting.

1.2 Attendance – Eskom Holdings SOC Limited

The following representative was in attendance:

Name	Position/Role
Mr Gugu Mvelase	Eskom Network Planning

1.3 Attendance – Public Participation Team

The following representatives were in attendance:

Name	Organisation	Position/Role
Ms Bongji Shinga	Wakhiwe SES	Public Participation Team Leader
Ms Lungelo Chamane	Wakhiwe SES	Public Participation Officer
Mr Sibusiso Khaba	Wakhiwe SES	Community Liaison Officer

2. FORMAT OF THE MEETING

All protocols at the Gumbi Traditional Council were observed. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

All information was presented in isiZulu and all proceedings were conducted in isiZulu.

3. INFORMATION CIRCULATED

Information and handouts distributed at the meeting included the following:

- Attendance Register.
- Background Information Document (isiZulu version).
- Comment Sheet (isiZulu version).
- Map showing the project study area and proposed corridors.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETINGS

The primary objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- Introduce the proposed Eskom Northern KZN Strengthening Project to the community and initiate discussions as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.
- Outline the environmental authorisation process that will be followed in undertaking the EIA process.
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input in the EIA process; and

- Advise on the ongoing public consultation process, identification of issues and next phases in the process.

5. CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

The following information was presented at the meeting:

- Background and description of the project.
- The need and motivation of the project.
- The description of the EIA process.
- The description of the Public Participation Process.
- The study area and proposed alternative corridors and substation.
- The locality of the communities in relation to the proposed corridors.
- Submission of comments, project timeframes and future phases of the EIA.

6. SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

All comments raised and discussed were recorded at the meeting including responses provided. In instances where responses were not readily available, comments were noted for passing on to the relevant officials.

Due to the remoteness of most rural areas, an alternative method for submission of comments was provided to the community. Community members were advised to submit any additional comments to the Secretary of the Traditional Council, who will thereafter liaise with the Public Participation Office for collection.

7. COMMENTS RAISED AND DISCUSSED

This section presents a summary of comments raised and discussed at the meeting.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
1	Mr Gumbi	The exhumation of graves is not in line with our tradition.	Overhead power lines can cross over graves and graveyards to avoid reburial and potential damage. However, should the proposed project have a direct impact on the graves, a reburial process will be facilitated with the assistance of a heritage specialist, Ingonyama Trust, affected family members and the relevant traditional council. Eskom ensures that the reburial process is subjected to the relevant customs and traditions of the affected family. Eskom pays all the costs

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
			associated with the reburial as agreed with the affected family.
2	Mr Gumbi	Is it possible for houses to be relocated and graves to remain undisturbed within the proposed corridors?	<p>It was clarified that Eskom will not use the entire 2km corridor. As such, given the distribution of households in the rural settlements, it is possible to find a servitude of 55m which avoids houses and graves.</p> <p>Overhead power lines can cross over graves and graveyards and avoid potential damage.</p>
3	Mr Gumbi	How tall are the structures which support the power lines?	<p>Distribution lines (132 kV): the height of the tower will be approximately 18 – 25 m and tower spacing is approximately 200 – 250 m.</p> <p>Transmission lines (400 kV): the conductor must be a minimum of 18 m and a maximum of 33 m above the ground.</p>
4	Mr Nkosinathi Gumbi	<p>The KwaGumbi land is under the custody of Mvokweni Community Trust and does not fall under Ingonyama Trust like most traditional councils.</p> <p>All communication regarding the project and land related matters should include Mvokweni Community Trust members.</p> <p>Mvokweni Community Trust members would like to be invited to all upcoming Landowner Focus Group Meetings and Key Stakeholders' Meetings.</p>	<p>The information shared by Mr Gumbi was noted, with thanks.</p> <p>The team confirmed that the Mvokweni Community Trust will be added on the project database and they will be invited to all future landowners' and Key Stakeholders' Meetings.</p>
5	Mr Nkosinathi Gumbi	The area has a number of Game Reserves that are protected. How does Eskom foresee using the area as a corridor for transmission lines?	<p>A number of corridors have been identified. Only one or a combination of the proposed corridors will be used.</p> <p>The visual impact as well as impacts on the economic, biophysical, social, heritage and social environments will also be assessed. The Environmental Assessment Practitioner will recommend a corridor with positive benefits for environmental authorisation.</p> <p>The corridor which will be selected should have positive impacts and avoid negative impacts.</p>
6	Mr Nkosinathi Gumbi	I acknowledge that the project is still in its initial phase. I would like to suggest that Eskom undertakes a detailed land	The Land Claims issue was noted by the team for passing onto the Social Impact Assessment specialist.

No	Name & Surname	Question/Comment	Response and Action
		owner identification process in the KwaGumbi area. Most private game reserves in the area are subject to land claims by the Gumbi Traditional Council.	

8. NEXT STEPS IN THE EIA PROCESS

The following information was outlined as part of the way forward:

- All members of the public will be advised of the availability of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for public review.
- Communication with Gumbi Traditional Council will continue for the duration of the EIA.
- All traditional councils will be informed whether they are or not affected by the preferred corridor when environmental authorisation has been issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

9. CLOSURE

The Public Participation Team thanked all participants and closed the meeting.

Refreshments were served afterwards.

ANNEXURE A: ATTENDANCE LIST AND REGISTERS

Copies of attendance registers are provided as Appendix E of the Draft Scoping Report and can be requested from Ms Lungelo Chamane, Email: lungelo@wakhiwe.co.za, Tel: 079 116 5703

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position	Contact Number	Address	Code
1	Mr	CA	Nxumalo	Gumbi TC	Council member	079 198 7310	Ezimbuzini, Pongola	3170
2	Mr	GS	Gumbi	Gumbi TC	Chairperson	076 100 1440	Candover, Pongola	3170
3	Mr	M	Nkosi	Gumbi TC	Council member	082 979 3434	Zonyama, Pongola	3170
4	Mr	Mbolande	Gumbi	Gumbi TC	Council member	079 064 3714	Cottland, Pongola	3170
5	Mr	Ngangezwe	Gumbi	Gumbi TC	Council member	071 302 0024	Hlambanyathi, Pongola	3170
6	Mr	Mbuzo	Nkosi	Gumbi TC	Council member	072 448 1782	Zonyama, Pongola	3170
7	Mr	Samson	Mahlobo	Gumbi TC	Council member		Zonyama, Pongola	3170
8	Ms	Thobile	Dlamini	Gumbi TC	Council member	062 776 6088	Cottland, Pongola	3170
9	Mrs	Kholile	Gumbi	Gumbi TC	Council member	072 668 6573	Cottland, Pongola	3170
10	Mrs	Ntombikayise	Sithole	Gumbi TC	Council member	079 253 9757	Bethel, Pongola	3170
11	Mr	Simon	Mzileni	Gumbi TC	Council member	082 712 0974	Candover, Pongola	3170
12	Mrs	Maggy	Mathenjwa	Gumbi TC	Council member		Candover, Pongola	3170
13	Mr	Vani	Nzima	Gumbi TC	Council member	079 617 9262	Hlambanyathi, Pongola	3170
14	Mr	Johan	Mathe	Gumbi TC	Council member		Khukhumuka, Pongola	3170
15	Mr	Macha	Mahlaba	Gumbi TC	Council member	082 425 9668	Candover, Pongola	3170
16	Mr	Sbusiso	Nkosi	Gumbi TC	Council member	071 595 2596	Khukhumuka, Pongola	3170
17	Mr	Mbongiseni	Nkosi	Gumbi TC	Council member	076 908 2463	Khukhumuka, Pongola	3170
18	Mr	Mnono	Gumbi	Gumbi TC	Council member	079 830 9917	Cottland, Pongola	3170
19	Mr	Siphangaye	Mavimbela	Gumbi TC	Council member	071 508 3495	Candover, Pongola	3170