



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

# NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED BOTSWANA-SOUTH AFRICA (BOSA) TRANSMISSION INTERCONNECTION PROJECT

AURECON REFERENCE NUMBER: 112581

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) has appointed Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd ("Aurecon") to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the BOSA Transmission Interconnection Project.

### Purpose of this document

This Background Information Document (BID) provides details about the project and affords stakeholders the opportunity to register as interested and affected parties (I&APs). Should you wish to register as an I&AP, please submit your contact details, comments and interest in the project to the Public Participation Office. Contact details as well as a comment form are provided at the end of this document.

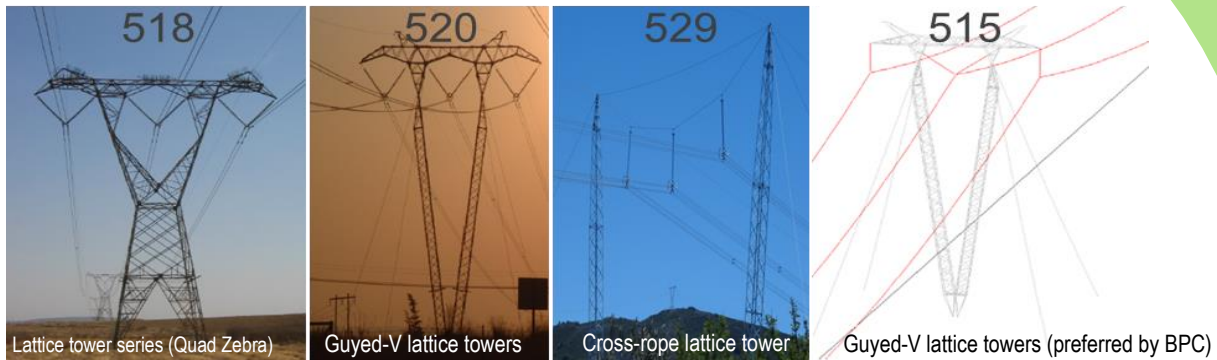
### What does the Project entail?

Approximately 210 km of 400 kV transmission line is proposed to link the Isang substation in Botswana and the Watershed B area near Mafikeng in South Africa (see Figure 1). The 400 kV line will comprise two transmission lines, placed up to 60 m apart from each other. Two lines ensure that there is still transmission of electricity if there is a problem on one line. The application for environmental authorisation is for a 1 km wide corridor within which the transmission lines are located.

The portion of line in South Africa will belong to Eskom and the portion in Botswana to the Botswana Power Corporation. Application for authorisation for the line will be made to the Departments of Environmental Affairs in both South Africa and Botswana for the portions of line in each country.

The project is being sponsored by the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA). The EIA is required to meet the international funder standards for environmentally and socially sustainable development, and will be termed an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). The Performance Standards of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) will guide the overall ESIA, which will be conducted as two "sub-EIAs", run in parallel, to ensure that the specific South African and Botswana requirements are met.

One of the following overhead line tower structure design options is likely to be selected as the design standard for the BOSA transmission interconnector line.



**Construction activities** will include:

- Negotiations with landowners
- Construction of access roads
- Building campsites for workforce
- Building foundations for the towers
- Assembling and erecting the towers
- Conductor stringing and regulation
- Site de-establishment and clean-up
- Rehabilitation of disturbed areas

**Operational activities** will be limited and include:

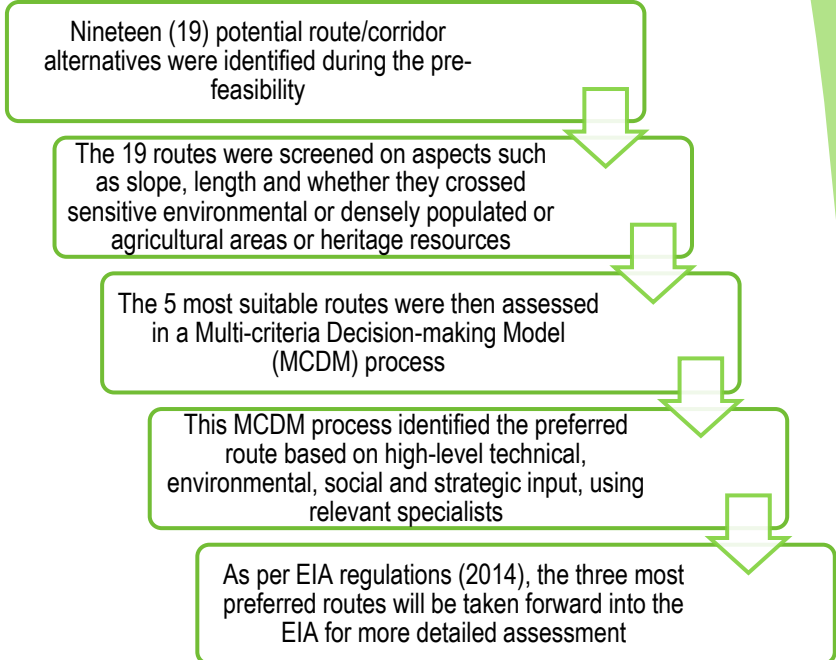
- Clearing of vegetation under lines
- Regular maintenance of lines
- Ad-hoc repair of lines as required

**Legal Requirements**

**National Environmental Management Act (SA)**

EIAs in South Africa are conducted in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (Government Notices R983 to 985) promulgated in terms of the

**What has been done to date?**



The following project activities trigger the need for an EIA in South Africa:

**GN R983, Activity 11:** "The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity – (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more."

**GN R984, Activity 9:** "The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex."

**GN R983, Activity 27:** "The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from – (i) a watercourse."

**GN R983, Activity 27:** "The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation."

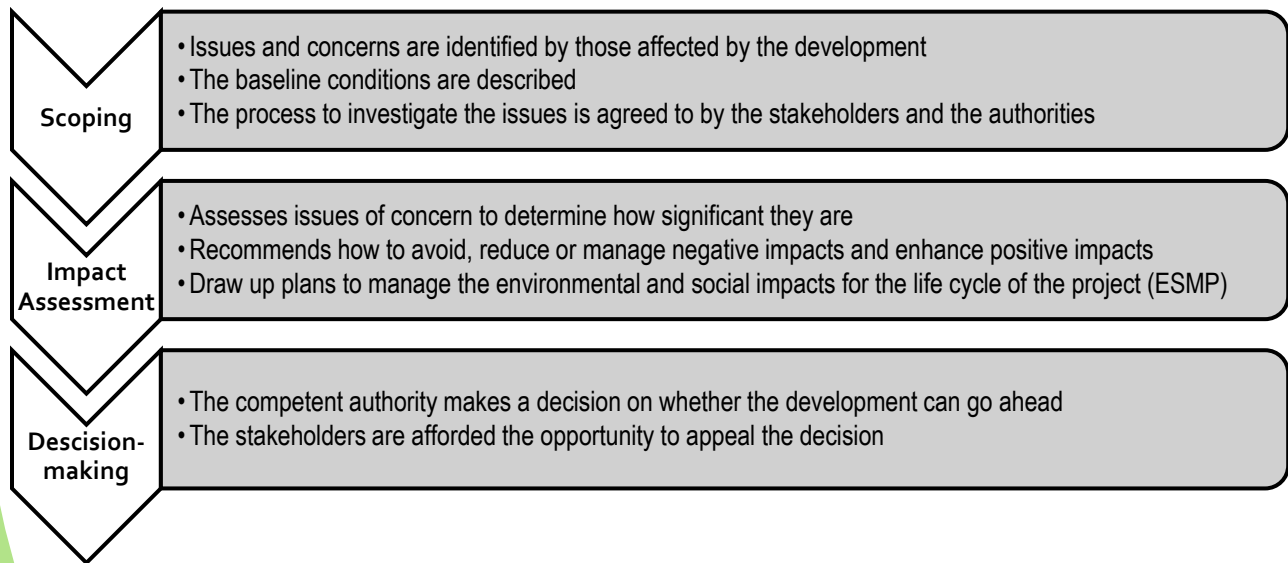
National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). Certain activities could have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment and Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required from the competent authority, in this case the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), before starting such a development.

### ***National Environmental Act (Botswana)***

EIAs in Botswana are conducted in terms of The Environmental Assessment Regulations (2012) promulgated in terms of the Environmental Assessment Act (No. 10 of 2011). Schedule 1 (regulation 3) of the Act lists activities, locations and thresholds for which an Environmental Statement is required.

### **What is an ESIA / EIA<sup>1</sup>?**

The ESIA process identifies potential negative and positive impacts on the environment (biophysical, socio-economic and cultural) of a proposed development. It also assesses alternative ways of undertaking the project and how the negative impacts of the project can be avoided or managed and positive impacts can be enhanced. The aim is to ensure that the project is environmentally and socially responsible. There are three phases in the EIA process.



Specialist input is used to assess the impacts, with ecological, bird, social, heritage and visual specialists all forming part of the team. The potential of any resettlement or loss of assets is also considered in detail.

While stakeholder engagement is required in both South Africa and Botswana EIA processes, it is especially important in terms of the IFC Performance Standards. This stakeholder engagement process will include an overarching public participation phase with initial notification of the project and then public review periods of 30 days each for the Scoping Report and ESIA Report.

All comments will be recorded and the ESIA team will respond to all comments in an Issues and Response Report (IRR). This ensures that all stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to the process. The authorities in both countries will consider the issues and responses relevant to the particular section of line during the decision phase. Once a decision has been made by the authorities, all stakeholders will be informed and have an opportunity to appeal the decision, should they wish to.

<sup>1</sup> ESIA and EIA may be used interchangeably. ESIA is the term used by the IFC and EIA by South Africa and Botswana.

# Proposed Location

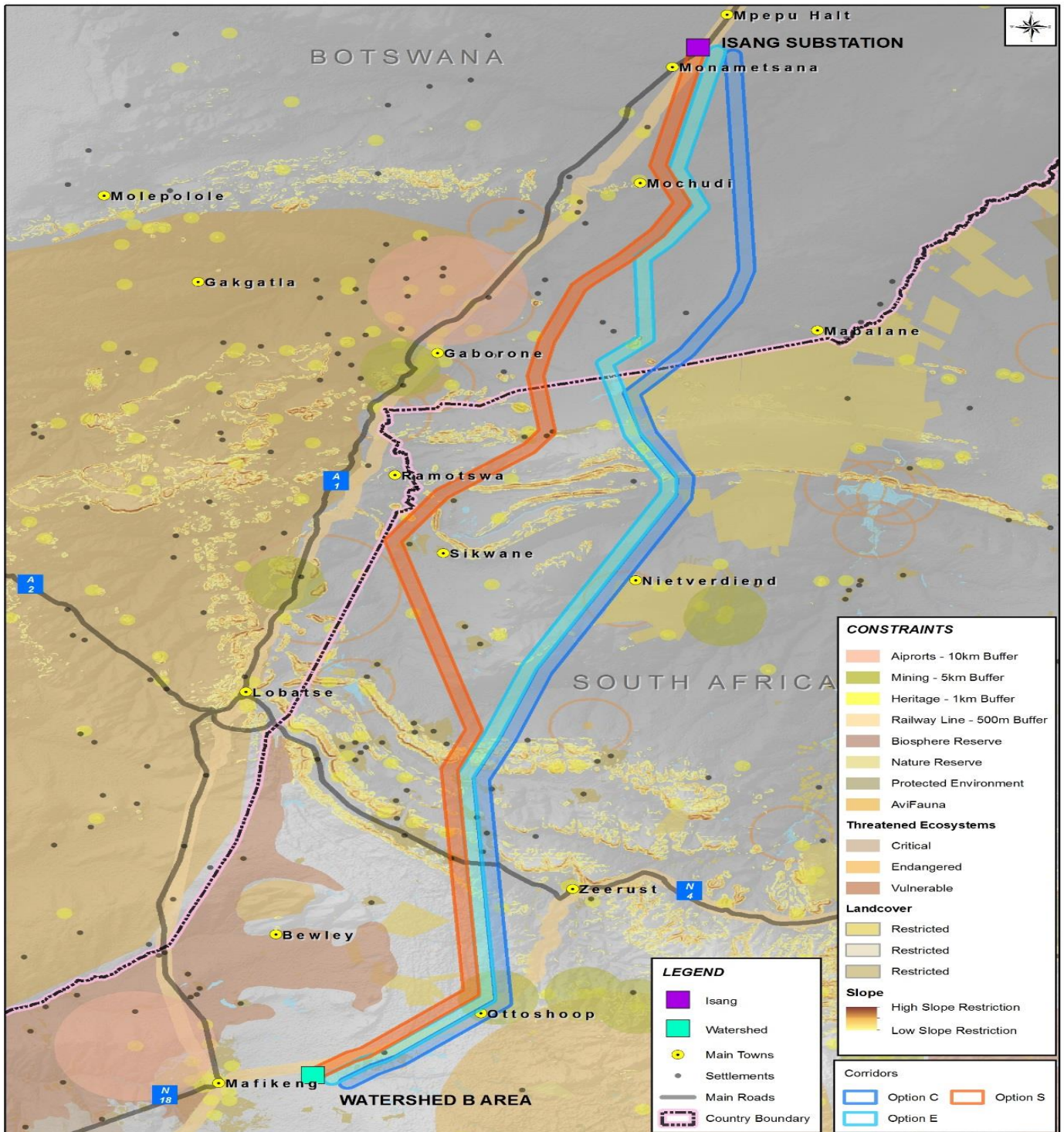


Figure 1: Proposed project layout indicating the three alternatives.

## **How Can You Get Involved?**

Public participation is a key component of any environmental process and will take place at various defined stages throughout the project.

Anyone who represents an affected organisation or Organ of State, or anyone who owns or lawfully occupies either the affected property or adjacent properties of the project, are already automatically registered as Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) on the project database.

If you are not included as part of these groups, but have an interest in the project, please register as an I&AP by completing the form below and sending it to the public participation office (contact details below).

You and all other registered I&APs will be notified of public comment periods and of submission of documentation to the DEA. These notifications will detail where Aurecon are in the process and how and when to submit comments or issues regarding the project and its ESIA process.

### *Your responsibilities as an I&AP*

In South Africa, NEMA identifies the responsibilities of an I&AP in Regulation No. 982, Section 43:

- Comments must be submitted within the approved timeframes or within any extension of a timeframe agreed to by the applicant or EAP
- A copy of any comments submitted directly to the relevant environmental authority must be submitted to the EAP
- Any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application, must be disclosed

## **Next steps**

You have until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2017 to register as an I&AP in the first round of stakeholder engagement and to raise issues about the proposed transmission line. The next step is the release of the Draft Scoping Report, which will detail the project, the baseline conditions of the affected area and the issues and concerns raised so far. It will also describe how the ESIA will address concerns raised. Copies of the Report will be placed in public venues for review and loaded onto the Aurecon Public Participation website. We will inform registered I&APs where to review the report and you will be given 30 days to comment on the report. We will inform you of the date of release and the dates and venues of any meetings to be held.

If you wish to raise any initial issues or concerns regarding the proposed project, or if you would like to register as an I&AP, please contact the public participation office:

### **Contact details**

Mrs Amelia Visagie  
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd  
4 Daventry Street, Lynnwood Bridge Office Park  
PO Box 74381  
0040  
Tel: +27 12 427 3149  
Email: PPP@aurecongroup.com

## Interested and/or Affected Party Response Form

<b>TITLE</b>		<b>FIRST NAME</b>	
<b>INITIALS</b>		<b>SURNAME</b>	
<b>ORGANISATION</b>			
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS</b>			
		<b>POSTAL CODE</b>	
<b>TEL NUMBER</b>		<b>FAX NUMBER</b>	
<b>CELL NUMBER</b>			
<b>E-MAIL</b>			

Yes, I would like to participate in this EIA  YES

No, I am not interested  NO

Please indicate how you would prefer to be contacted:  FAX    EMAIL    MAIL

**COMMENTS:** (please use additional sheets if required)

1. The following issues must be considered in the EIA Process:

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2. Please add the following interested and affected parties to the mailing list:

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**We thank you for your participation**

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



## FOR THE BOTSWANA-SOUTH AFRICA (BOSA) TRANSMISSION INTERCONNECTION PROJECT (AURECON REFERENCE NUMBER: 112581)

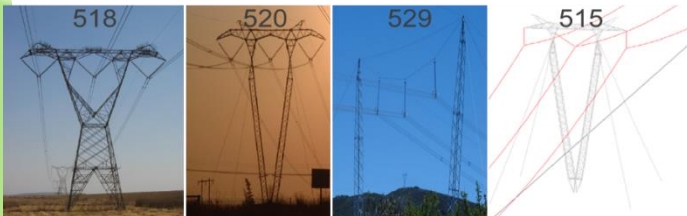
The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) has appointed Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd ("Aurecon") to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the BOSA Transmission Interconnection Project.

### What is the project?

- 210 km of 400 kV transmission line from South Africa to Botswana
- Link between Isang substation near Gaborone and Watershed B near Mafikeng
- Eskom will own the line in South Africa and the Botswana Power Corporation the line in Botswana
- Sponsored by the Development Bank of South Africa
- Must meet the IFC Performance Standards for Environmental and Social Sustainability

This document provides high level information about the project. Stakeholders can register as interested and affected parties (I&APs) to receive additional and updated information. If you would like to register as an I&AP, please send us your contact details, comments and interest in the project before the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2017 to the

Public Participation Office to  
Mrs Amelia Visagie  
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd  
4 Daventry Street, Lynnwood Bridge Office Park  
PO Box 74381; 0040  
Tel: +27 12 427 3149



Overhead Line Structure design Options used

### What is the process?

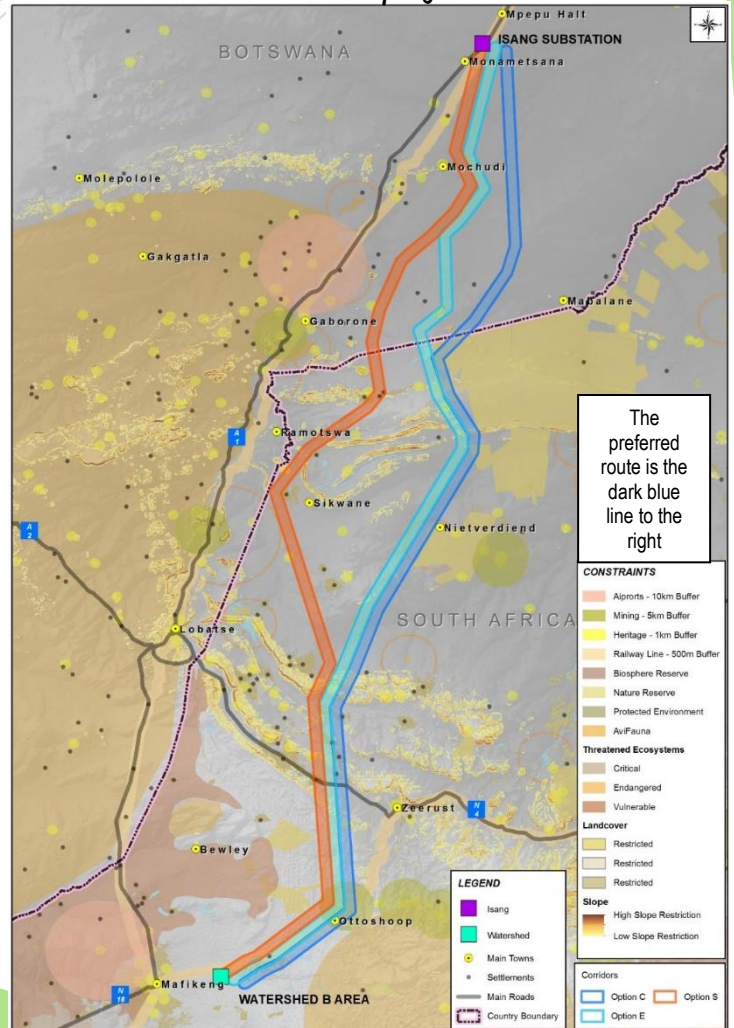
An EIA assesses the impacts of a proposed project and recommends ways to avoid or manage the negative impacts and enhance the positive ones. EIAs in South Africa are conducted in terms of the EIA Regulations (Government Notices R983 to 985) promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA); and in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (Act no 6 of 2005) in Botswana.

A team of social, heritage, ecological, bird and visual specialists will assess the impacts on people, animals and plants. Any potential resettlement or loss of assets will be considered in detail.

Talking to people affected by the project (stakeholders) is an important part of an EIA. You can ask questions or raise concerns about the project now and you will have an opportunity to comment on the Scoping and ESIA Reports. By registering as an interested and affected party, you will be kept informed as relevant documentation is made available.

All your comments will be recorded, considered and incorporated in the project documentation that is submitted to the relevant authorities for project decision making.

### Where is the project?



## Interested and/or Affected Party Response Form

<b>TITLE</b>		<b>FIRST NAME</b>	
<b>INITIALS</b>		<b>SURNAME</b>	
<b>ORGANISATION</b>			
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS</b>			
		<b>POSTAL CODE</b>	
<b>TEL NUMBER</b>		<b>FAX NUMBER</b>	
<b>CELL NUMBER</b>			
<b>E-MAIL</b>			

Yes, I would like to participate in this EIA  YES

No, I am not interested  NO

Please indicate how you would prefer to be contacted:  FAX    EMAIL    MAIL

**COMMENTS:** (please use additional sheets if required)

1. The following issues should be considered in the EIA Process:

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2. Please add the following interested and affected parties to the mailing list:

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**We thank you for your participation**



# BUKANA YA TSHEDIMOSETSO



## MABAPI LE BOTSWANA-SOUTH AFRICA (BOSA) PHETISO KGOLAGANO-MAGARENG POROJEKE (AURECON NOMORE- TSHUPETSO: 112581)

Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) e thapile Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd ("Aurecon") go dira dipatlisiso mabapi le gore projeke e e itsegeng ka Bosa Transmission Interconnection Project e tla ama tlhago le Batho jang.

### Projeke e mabapi le eng?

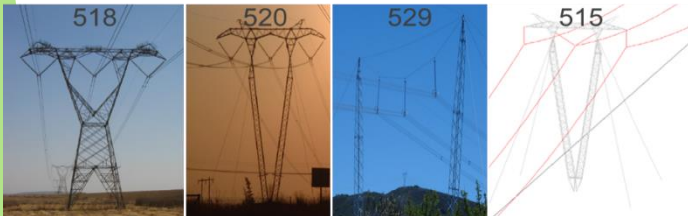
Dikilomitara di le 210 km tsa megala ya motlakase ya maatla a 400 kV e e tswang kwa Afrika Borwa e ya kwa Botswana

Megala ya motlakase e e tshwaraganyang lefelo le le itsegeng ka Isang substation gaufi le Gaborone le Watershed B gaufi le Mafikeng

Mogala wa motlakase o o mo Afrika Borwa o tla nna mo tlase ga taolo ya Eskom mme e e kwa Botswana e tla laoliwa ke Botswana Power Corporation.

Madi a go dira projeke a tla ntshiwa ke Banka e e itsegeng ka Development Bank of South Africa

Tsamaiso ya tiro e e umakiwang fa godimo e tshwanetse e nne go ya ka melawana ya setlamo sa IFC e e leng mabapi le tlhokomelo ya tlhago e e itsegeng ka "Performance Standards for Environmental and Social Sustainability"



Go tla thlopiwa e nngwe ya tse di fa godimo mabapi le ditebebo tsa megala ya motlakase.

### Ke eng se se tla diriwang?

Dipatlisiso mabapi le gore projeke e ama batho le tlhago jang kana EIA e sekaseka seabe sa porojeke e e tshithintsweng le go tshithinya ditsela tsa go thibela kgotsa go laola ditlamorago tse di sa siamang le go dira gore go nne le ditlamorago tse di siameng. Dipatlisiso tsa EIA mo Aforika Borwa di dirwa go ya ka melawana ya puso (Dikitsiso tsa puso R983 go ya go 985) go tlhagisiwa go ya ka Molao wa Bosetšhaba wa Taolo ya Tikologo (No. 107 wa 1998 (NEMA); le go ya ka molawana o o tsamaisang merero ya tsa Tlhago kwa Botswana (Molao wa bo 6 wa 2005) kwa Botswana.

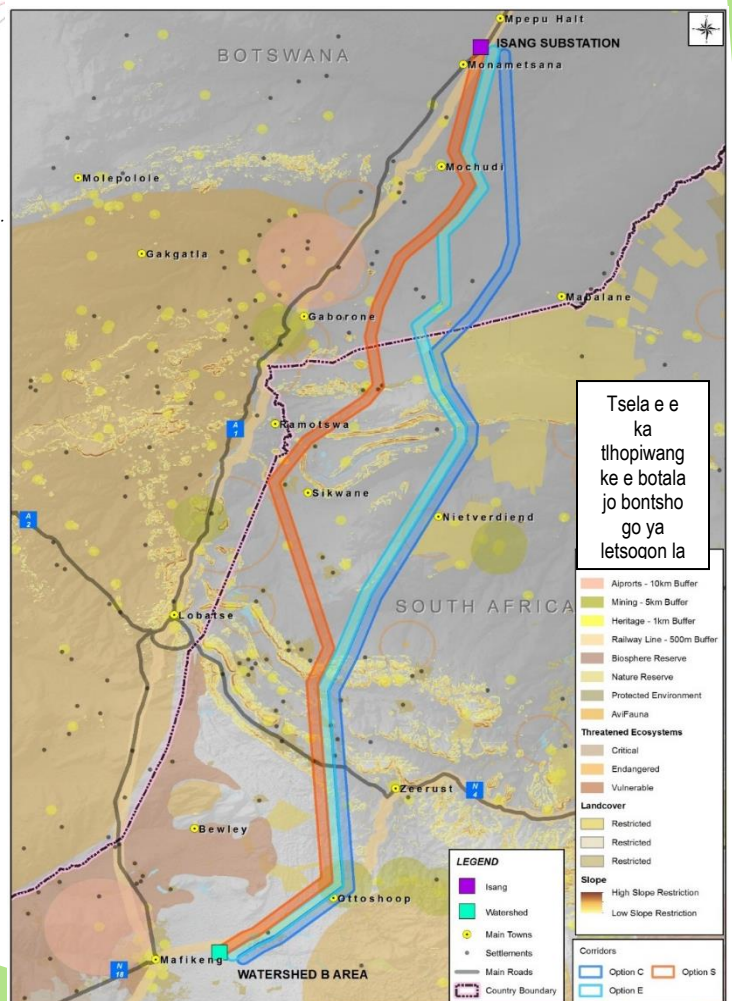
Baitseenape ba ba itseng ka tsa tlhago, didiriswa tsa kgale le mabitla, diitshedi le dimela, dinonyane ba tla sekaseka ditlamorago tse di sa siamang tsa projeke mme ba leka go netefatsa gore go nne le ditlamorago tse di siameng. Khuduso kana tatlhegelo ya thoto nngwe le nngwe e e ka nngang teng e tla tsewa tsia ka bottlalo.

Go bua le batho ba ba amilweng ke porojeke (botlhe ba ba amegang) ke karolo e e bothokwa ya dipatlisiso tsa EIA. O ka botsa dipotso le go tlhagisa matshwenyego mabapi le porojeke jaanong mme o tla nna le tšhono ya go tshwaela mabapi le diripoto tsa ESIA. Fa o ikwadisitse jaaka yo o nang le kगतlego mo projekeng, o tla nna o fiwa dikitsiso, tshedimisetso le diripoto mabapi le projeke eno.

Ditshwaelo tsa gago tsoitlhe di tla kwadiwa mo diripotong tsa rona, e bile di tla akarediwa mo diripotong tse di tla isiwang kwa pusong gore bat see tshweetso mabapi le projeke.

Letlhare leno le kwadilwe go go neela kitsiso ya maemo a a kwa godimo mabapi le projeke eno. O lopiwa go ikwadisa jaaka yo o nang le kगतlego yo o amegang (I&APs) gore o kgone go amogela tshedimisetso e e oketsegileng le go thababolwa. Fa o batla go ikwadisa jaaka yo o amegang kana a na le kगतlego o lopiwa go romela maina a gago, nomore ya mogala le di aterese tsa gago go Kantoro ya Botsayakarolo (Public Participation Office) pele ga 03 Tlhakole 2017 go  
Mme Amelia Visagie  
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd  
4 Daventry Street, Lynnwood Bridge Office Park

### Porojeke e e ko lefelong lefe?



## Yo a nang le kgatlhego le / Kgotsa yo o amegang

<b>SELTHOGO</b>		<b>LEINA LA NTLHA</b>	
<b>DITLHAKAINA</b>		<b>SEFANE</b>	
<b>MOKGATLHO</b>			
<b>ATERESE YA POSO</b>			
		<b>NOMORO YA POSO</b>	
<b>NOMORO YA MOGALA</b>		<b>NOMORO YA FEKSE</b>	
<b>NOMORO YA SELE</b>			
<b>E-MAIL</b>			

Ee, ke rata go tsaya karolo mo go EIA  EE

Nyaa, ga ke na kgatlhego  NYAA

Tsweetswee supa go re o ka rata go tlhaelediwa jang: FEKSE E-MAIL POSO

**DITSHWAELO:** (tsweetswee dirisa matlhare a mangwe fa go tlokega)

1. Dintlha tse di latelang di tshwanetse go tsewa tsia mo tiragatsong ya EIA:

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2. Le kopiwa go akaretsa ba bangwe ba ba nang le kgatlhego kgotsa ba ba anwang ke projeke go lenaneng la poso:

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**Re lebogela botsayakarolo jwa gago**

# AGTERGROND INLIGTINGS DOKUMENT (AID)



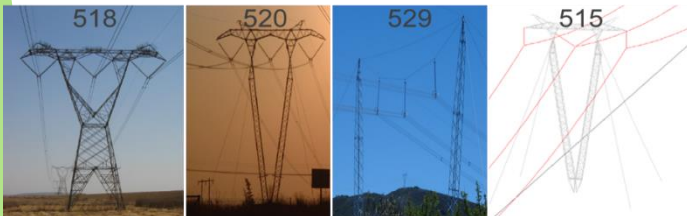
## VIR DIE BOTSWANA-SUID AFRIKA (BOSA) TRANSMISSIE PROJEEK INTERKONNEKSIE (AURECON VERWYSINGS NOMMER: 112581)

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd ("Aurecon") is deur die Suider Afrikaanse Kragpoel (SAPP) aangestel om die Omgewingsimpakstudie (OIS) vir die BOSA Transmissie Interkonneksie projek te doen.

### Waaroor gaan die projek?

- 210 km van 400 kV transmissie lyn van Suid Afrika na Botswana
- Skakel tussen Isang substansie naby Gaborone en Watershed B naby Mafikeng
- Eskom sal die lyn besit in Suid Afrika en die Botswana Krag Korporasie in Botswana
- Geborg deur Ontwikkelings Bank van Suid Afrika
- Moet aan die International Finance Corporation (IFC) prestasiestandaarde vir omgewings en sosiale impakstudies voldoen

Die doel van hierdie Agtergrondinligtingsdokument (AID) is om in kennis te stel van die projek. Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GPs) kan registreer om addisionele, opgedateerde inligting oor die projek te kry. Registreer asseblief as 'n B&GP en stuur u kommentaar oor die voorgestelde projek voor die 3e Februarie 2017 na die volgende adres:  
Openbare Deelname Kantoor na:  
Mev Amelia Visagie  
Aurecon Suid Afrika (Pty) Ltd  
4 Davenry Staat, Lynnwood Bridge  
Posbus 74381; 0040  
Tel: +27 12 427 3149  
Email: PPP@aurecongroup.com



Oorhoofse lynsturktuur ontwerpopsies

### Wat is die proses?

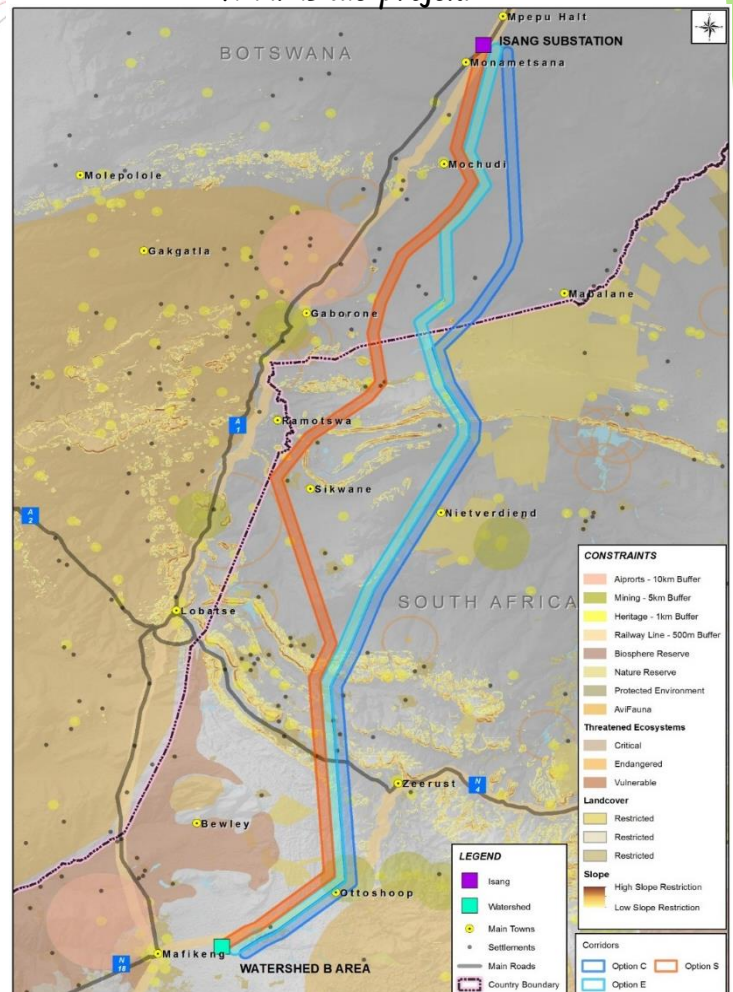
Deur die OIS in Suid Afrika word daar gekyk na die impak van die projek en voorstelle word gemaak om negatiewe impakte te verhoed en positiewe impakte te beklemtoon. Die voorgestelde projek aktiveer sekere aktiwiteite wat ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, (R983 tot 985) en die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuursimpak regulasies (Regulasie nr 6 van 2005) in Botswana.

Verskillende impakstudies soos sosiale impak, kulturele en argeologiese erfenis, ekologiese, voëls, en visuele evaluering sal deur 'n span van onafhanklike spesialiste gedoen word om die impak op mense, diere en plante te bepaal. Dit verseker dat die maatreëls wat geïdentifiseer is om die impak op die omgewing te verminder toegepas word.

Een van die belangrikste aspekte van die projek is om met al die Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GPs) te praat sodat al die vrae en bekommernisse in ag geneem kan word. Al die B&GP's sal ook kans kry om hulle kommentaar te lewer gedurende die OIS en gedurende die Omgewings en Sosiale impakstudie verslag. Deur te registreer as 'n B&GP sal U op hoogte gehou word van die prosesse en wanneer verslae gepubliseer sal word.

Al die kommentaar wat ontvang is sal in die projekverslae weerspieël word en aan die relevante owerhede gestuur word om die finale besluit oor die projek te neem.

### Waar is die projek?



## Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GPs) Kommentaarvorm

<b>TITEL</b>		<b>VOORNAAM</b>	
<b>VOORLETTERS</b>		<b>VAN</b>	
<b>ORGANISASIE</b>			
<b>POSADRES</b>			
		<b>POSKODE</b>	
<b>TEL NOMMER</b>		<b>FAKS NOMMER</b>	
<b>SELFOONNOMMER</b>			
<b>EPOS</b>			

Ja, ek wil graag deelneem aan hierdie OIB

Ja

Nee, ek stel nie belang nie

Nee

Hoe wil U inligting ontvangs?

Faks

E-pos

Pos

**KOMMENTAAR:** (gebruik asseblief addisionele bladsy indien nodig)

1. Die volgende kwessies moet aangespreek word in die OIS proses:

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2. Plaas asseblief die volgende kollegas/vriende op die adreslys:

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**BAIE DANKIE VIR U DEELNAME**