

PROJECT IMPACT ASSESSMENT, SIGNIFICANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES SUMMARY

The following impact rating approach used by EnviroAfrica CC is a basic exponential rating system to assess actual and potential negative and positive environmental impacts.

Environmental activities or aspects are identified, based on:

- the phases of the project,
- the nature (or description) of the actual and potential impacts of the activities.

For every project activity or aspect, various environmental impacts are listed. Every negative impact is allocated a -value as per each of the following criteria:

- Probability (Likelihood)
- Extent
- Duration (Frequency)
- Consequence (Receiving Environment)
- Magnitude (Intensity/severity)

Every positive impact is allocated a +value as per each of the following criteria:

- Probability (Likelihood)
- Extent
- Duration (Frequency)
- Magnitude (Intensity/severity)

Once a value is allocated for each of the criterion, the scores are averaged to determine the final impact rating see Table 1 below.

EnviroAfrica then further assesses environmental significance, based on the nature of the impact, as per the score and colour key which forms part of Table 1 below. This results in impacts having either a low (indicated in green), medium (indicated in yellow) or high (indicated in orange and red) negative significance, and a low (light blue), medium (blue) or a high (dark blue) positive significance

Note: i. As a baseline, impact rating values/scores are allocated taking the **worst case** scenario into account i.e. with no mitigation. The baseline rating is compared with those after mitigation has been taken into account i.e. the post-mitigation rating. Post mitigation rating is used for the actual impact assessment.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Negligible (very-low)
Value	16	8	4	2	1
Probability (likelihood) (P)	Definite. Impact will definitely occur (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures)	Highly probable. Very likely for impact to occur.	Probable. Impact may likely occur.	Improbable. Impact may occur. Distinct Possibility	Improbable. Low likelihood/unlikely for impact to occur.
Extent (E)	Impact potentially reaches beyond national boundaries	Impact has definite provincial/potential national consequences	Impact confined to regional area/ town	Impact confined to local region and impact on neighbouring properties	Impact confined to project property / site
Duration (D)	Permanent The impact is expected to have a permanent impact, with very little to no rehabilitation possible	Long-Term The impact is expected to last for a long time after construction with rehabilitation expected to be 15-50 years. Impact is reversible but only with long-term mitigation	Medium-term The impact is expected to last for some time after construction with rehabilitation expected to be 5 - 15 years. Impact is reversible but only with on-going mitigation	Short-term The impact is expected to last for a relatively short time with rehabilitation expected to be 2-5 years. The impact is reversible through natural process and/or some mitigation.	Very short/ temporary The impact is expected to be temporary and last for a very short time with rehabilitation expected to be less than 2 years. The impact is easily reversible through natural process and/or some mitigation.
Magnitude (Intensity/ Severity) (M)	It is expected that the activity will have a very severe to permanent impact on the surrounding environment. Functioning irreversibly impaired. Rehabilitation often impossible or unfeasible	It is expected that the activity will have a severe impact on the surrounding environment. Functioning may be severely impaired and may be temporarily cease. Rehabilitation will be needed to restore system integrity	It is expected that the activity will have an impact on the surrounding environment, but it will maintain its function, even if moderately modified (overall integrity not compromised). Rehabilitation easily achieved	It is expected that the activity will have a perceptible impact on the surrounding environment, but it will maintain its function, even if slightly modified (overall integrity not compromised). Rehabilitation easily achieved	It is expected that the impact will have little or no effect on the integrity of the surrounding environment
Receiving environment (Consequence): (RE)	Very sensitive, pristine area – protected site or species permanently or seasonally present	Unused area containing only indigenous fauna / flora species	Unused area containing indigenous and alien fauna / flora species	Semi-disturbed area already rehabilitated / recovered from prior impact, or with moderate alien vegetation	Disturbed area/ transformed/ heavy alien vegetation

ENVIRONMENTAL RATING SIGNIFICANCE KEY:

Negative Impacts

SIGNIFICANCE	RATING	Final rating score / value range
Very Significant	Very High	-11 to -16
Significant	High	-7 to <-11
Increasing Significance	Medium	-4 to <-7
	Low	-2 to <-4
Insignificant	Very Low	-1 to <-2

Positive Impacts

SIGNIFICANCE	RATING	Final rating score / value range
Significant	High	10 to 16
Increasing Significance	Medium	4 to <10
Insignificant	Low	1 to <4

Table 1: Environmental Significance Rating Methodology (rating criteria and significance key)

**INSERT RATING SCORING MATRIX*

Nature of Impact			Impact Assessment Ranking and Proposed Mitigation		
No.	Aspect	Impact	Environmental Significance (without Mitigation)	Proposed Mitigation (i.e. Proposed mitigation to reverse/ avoid, manage or mitigate identified impacts associated with construction, operation, and decommissioning/ closure phases)	Environmental Significance (After Mitigation)
CONSTRUCTION PHASE					
1	Freshwater Resources	Possible lose sediments washed down the drainage line and into the Haas River	Medium (Negative)	The following mitigation measures must be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit the footprint - Level and landscape after construction - Construct during the dry summer months - Be mindful of the aquatic environment during construction and employ best practices 	Low (Negative)
2		Contaminated runoff reaching the river	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due vigilance. Prevent rubble and pollutants reaching the river. - Develop the last reach of the drainage line as a biological filter. 	Very Low (Negative)
3	Botanical	Loss of vulnerable or endangered vegetation and associated habitat.	Medium (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All construction must be done in accordance with an approved construction and operational phase Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which must include the recommendations made in this report. - A suitably qualified Environmental Control Officer must be appointed to monitor the construction phase in terms of the EMP and any other conditions pertaining to specialist studies. - The layout of the development footprint should take the sensitivity map into account and should aim to stay out of the green sensitive areas, which will ensure that no significant <i>Vachellia erioloba</i> tree will be impacted. - However, if for viable reasons, the layout could not be placed outside of the above mentioned green areas, the layout must aim at minimum impact on the <i>Vachellia erioloba</i> trees and a permit application must be made in terms of the National Forest Act (protected species regulations). - Before construction begins all <i>Vachellia erioloba</i> trees in the near vicinity of the construction footprint and entrance roads, laydown areas, site offices etc. must be demarcated as NO-GO areas. - Lay-down areas or construction sites must be located within the construction footprint or areas of low botanical significance approved by the ECO. If such lay-down areas or construction camp sites must, for viable reasons, be located outside of the construction footprint areas, these areas must be rehabilitated afterwards. Topsoil must be removed from such areas, and protected for the duration of the construction period to be used for rehabilitation after construction is completed. 	Low (Negative)
4		Potential impact on protected areas, CBA's, ESA's or Centre's of Endemism.	Medium (Negative)		Low (Negative)
5		Potential loss of ecological migration corridors.	Medium (Negative)		Low (Negative)
6		Potential impact on threatened or protected plant species.	High (Negative)		Low (Negative)

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No unnecessary clearing of any area outside of the construction footprint may be allowed. - All waste that had been illegally dumped within the footprint must be removed to a Municipal approved waste disposal site. - An integrated waste management approach must be implemented during construction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Construction related general and hazardous waste may only be disposed of at Municipal approved waste disposal sites. 	
7		No-Go	Medium (Negative)		
8	Impact on Cultural, Archaeological Palaeontological, and Heritage	Loss and/or damage to potential fossils and pre-colonial archaeological and historical sites within the construction footprint	Very Low (Negative)	Should any substantial fossil remains (e.g. vertebrate bones and teeth, shells) be encountered during development, however, these should be reported to SAHRA for possible mitigation by a palaeontological specialist.	Very Low (Negative)
9	Socio-economic	Creation of short- and long-term employment opportunities.	Medium (Positive)	The construction of the development will have positive impacts on the socio-economic dynamics relative to direct and indirect, short- and long-term employment opportunities and skills development.	Medium (Positive)
10	Dust	Dust will be generated during the construction of the proposed development	Low (Negative)	The following mitigation measures must be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stockpiled material must be covered with a plastic sheet; - A water cart must be used on utilized roads to reduce construction-related dust generation; - If dust generation is not adequately mitigated by proposed measures, shade netting must be installed along the eastern boundary of the site to reduce the amount of dust being blown onto the N7 from the construction site; - Sprinklers may need to be installed to reduce the generation of dust by construction activities. 	Low (Negative)
11	Visual	Site may be not aesthetic amid natural background.	Low (Negative)	This impact cannot be avoided.	Low (Negative)
12	Traffic	Increase in trucks slowing down and turning into the site	Low (Negative)	Traffic control measures as per the EMP	Low (Negative)

APPENDIX F – IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Nature of Impact			Impact Assessment Ranking and Proposed Mitigation		
No.	Aspect	Impact	Environmental Significance (without Mitigation)	Proposed Mitigation (i.e. Proposed mitigation to reverse/ avoid, manage or mitigate identified impacts associated with construction, operation, and decommissioning/ closure phases)	Environmental Significance (After Mitigation)
13	Noise	Noise will be generated during the construction phase.	Low (Negative)	<p>Any noise generated by construction activities will be a temporary impact however, the following mitigation measures will be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A complaint register to be maintained on-site. Any complaints received must be responded to and rectified accordingly. The ECO must be notified of any complaints; - All construction vehicles must be fitted with standard silencers. All silencers must be maintained. All machinery used on site must have suppressors. - Working hours must be limited to and strictly adhered to standard daylight working hours (08h00-17h00). 	Low (Negative)
OPERATION PHASE					
14	Freshwater Resources	Litter down the drainage line and into the river	Medium (Negative)	Proper solid waste management	Low (Negative)
15	Socioeconomic	Creation of short- and long-term employment opportunities.	Low (Positive)	This is a positive impact.	Low (Positive)
16		Business opportunities for SMMEs	Medium (Positive)	This is a positive impact	Medium (Positive)
17	Visual	Development of an undeveloped area.	Medium (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of non reflective colours to blend with the surrounding environment. (examples are grey and green shade in line with the natural vegetation). - Films should be used to reduce excessive reflection of glazing. - Landscaping should compliment the natural vegetation and reduce the impact of hard surfaces such as the parking area. 	Low (Negative)