

UEMP INFORMATION SHARING ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UMHLATHUZE EMF CASE STUDY

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Outline of Presentation

- Introduction to the Study Area
- National/Global Importance of Study Area
- Umhlathuze Proposed EMF
- Concerns: (Ecological, Hydrological, Offsets, Heritage Impact, etc.)
- Progress to-date (Umhlathuze EMF)
- Project Timing

Introduction to Study Area

- Port Area was originally a fishing village towards end of the 1800s.
- In 1976, the harbour was dredged deeply enough to become a real sea port.
- Port has grown rapidly after its development to become SA's largest port
- Total land area of 2,174ha and sea surface area of 1,443ha.
- To date, only half of the existing port area has been developed.

National/Global Importance of Port

- Most of SA's aluminum is produced in R/Bay and also 25% world supply of titanium, zirconium, rutile and other minerals due to proximity to Port for export.
- Maximum number of berths currently available at port is 50.
- With Durban running out of space for further development, national & international attention has shifted to Richards Bay Port.
 - (i) due to abundance of land space available and
 - (ii) surface sea area.
- Some foreign companies have already shown interest in the expansion of the port which if undertaken will position Richards Bay Port as potentially one of the largest port in the world.

Umhlathuze EMF

- Why Umhlathuze EMF? To develop this proactive environmental management tool to assist in the management of the sensitive ecological features within the R/Bay Port Expansion area.
- Also included in the Umhlathuze EMF is Richards Bay IDZ area which is targeted for industrial development within the city.
- Total area of Richards Bay IDZ is 270ha.
- Total area for Port Expansion is 1,674ha.
- Combined total area for EMF is 1,944ha.

Environmental Concerns

Ecological:

- Loss of Papyrus Swamps (Specialist Investigation Needed)
- Mangroves
- General Vegetation of the Port Expansion/IDZ Area

Hydrological:

- 3 known lakes in Study Area (i.e. Lake Cubu, Mzingazi & Nsese)
- Estuarine Area
- Wetlands
- Slime Dams Investigation

Concerns (Cont'd)

- Loss of Wetlands
- Phragmites (Reed plant) Species loss
- Loss of Mhlathuze River Floodplain
- Heritage Impact has been highlighted.
- In view of National Significance of Port Expansion vs. Ecological/Environmental Sensitivity of expansion area, OFFSET development has been strongly muted as a likely option. How do we deal with this?
- Port Authority undertaking it own in-house studies on expansion area (i.e. PDF = Port Development Framework)

DAEA, Municipality & NPA Association

- EMF project management meetings commenced in Jan. 2007.
- Five meetings were undertaken that lead to drafting of Memorandum of Understanding to undertake EMF between DAEA, Umhlathuze Municipality (Richards Bay) & Ports Authority (NPA).
- In June of 2007, MOU was ready but NPA was not prepared to sign it.
- “Reason: They needed time to conduct their own in-house environmental study before committing to EMF”.

DAEA, Municipality & NPA (Cont'd)

- Municipality at same time not prepared to proceed without NPA.
- 7-month deadlock of process as a result.
- Informed PSC of UEMP of situation and possibility of changing from EMF from Richards Bay to else where b'cos of impasse.
- PSC referred KZN-Umhlatuze EMF dilemma to Environmental Impact Management Directorate Chief Director to assist in terms of way forward.

Challenges

- Composition of Project Steering Committee (DAEA, LM, & NPA);
- Study Area for EMF (i.e. Port Area in view of Richards Bay Port Expansion Programme)/ Entire Umhlathuze Municipal Area
- Challenges of Conflict of Interest;
- Potential Developer (i.e. NPA also initiator of EMF)
- Transnet overseers of NPA has questioned involvement of NPA in proposed EMF
- Transnet has requested meeting with DAEA to discuss way forward.

Progress of EMF to date

- Umhlathuze Council has been informed of proposed EMF through a council resolution.
- MOU has been signed between Municipality and DAEA.
- Service provider has been appointed (January 2009)
- Inception meeting between Service Provider and DAEA was undertaken in February 2009 to agreed and finally confirm scope of work.
- First Project Steering Committee was held on 28 April 2009.

Progress to date (Cont'd)

- Inception report for EMF has been finalised.
- Ground-truthing by various specialist to produce Status Quo Report underway.
- Combined work by Port PDF specialist team and EMF team to avoid and address overlaps.
- Status Quo report due on 19 July 2009
- Next Project Steering Committee meeting will held on 30 July to discuss Status Quo report.

Project Timing

Activity	Date
Status Quo Report	July 2009
Desired State of Environment	Sept. 2009
Draft EMF and SEMP	Nov. 2009
Revised EMF	Jan. 2010
MEC Adoption of EMF	March 2010

THANK YOU!!!

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