GUIDANCE NOTES FOR SUMMARY PROJECT REPORT

• **Screening** often results in a categorization of the project and from this a decision is made on whether or not a full EIA is to be carried out.

Screening criteria categories include:

(i) Characteristics of the Proposed Development,
(ii) Location of the Proposed Development and,
(iii) Characteristics of Potential Impacts

The criteria associated with each category, (i.e. the criteria that must be taken into account when making screening decisions on a case by case basis) is presented in Table below.

(I) Characteristics of proposed development
The characteristics of proposed development, in particular: • the size of the proposed development, • the cumulation with other proposed development, • the use of natural resources, • the production of waste, • pollution and nuisances, the risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used

(II) Location of proposed development

- The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by proposed development, having regard in particular to:
- the existing land use,
- the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area,
- the non-disputed nature of the land
- the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
    - wetlands,
    - coastal zones,
    - mountain and forest areas,
    - nature reserves and parks,
    - areas classified or protected under legislation, including special protection areas
    - areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation have already been exceeded,
    - densely populated areas
    - landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

(III) Characteristics of potential impacts

The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out regard in particular to:

- the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population),
- the transfrontier nature of the impact,
- the magnitude and complexity of the impact,
- the probability of the impact,
- the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.

1.1 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

1.1.1 Size of the Project

The mandatory threshold for prescribed types of development in a particular area should be considered.

Having regard to the size of the proposed project, likely significant effects on the environment cannot be ruled out without more detailed surveys, investigations and assessments.

1.1.2 Cumulation with Other Projects

A number of searches in relation to plans and projects that may have the potential to result in cumulative impacts must be undertaken. Data sources included the following:

- The searches should reveal other large scale projects that have the potential to result in likely significant cumulative impacts.
- Additional surveys and assessment work is required in order to determine whether existing projects, in combination with the proposed project, will have a significant cumulative effect on the receiving environment.

1.1.3 Use of Natural Resources

Exact quantities of materials required may not be determined at this stage, large amounts of aggregates are likely to be used during construction phase. Where the materials are coming from should be considered. Some of this material may be gained from within the site, however some will be imported to the site.

1.1.4 Production of Waste

Large quantities of unsuitable material will be excavated and not reused during the construction. Whilst the exact amount of this unsuitable material may not be evaluated, an assessment should be undertaken to identify potential locations for recovery/disposal .The excavation and treatment of this material may have potential environmental effects.

1.1.5 Pollution and Nuisances

During construction, polluting material may have the potential to cause environmental effects, however the likelihood and severity of these effects should be minimised through compliance with NEMA regulations, Guidelines and the employment of construction

management best practices. During the construction stage temporary impacts will be experienced by those property owners along the proposed development.

Depending on the nature of the project, the operational phase presents varied environmental and social impacts such as; increases in noise and vibration levels, air emissions, effluent discharges, waste management challenges, public and occupational health and safety concerns among others.

1.1.6 Risk of Accidents

During the construction stage, the likelihood of an accidental spillage of construction materials into the aquatic environment should be managed through the adoption of strict best practice construction management. During the operational stage, it is anticipated that the risk of accidents and the resulting pollution risks will be reduced due to improved safety.

1.2 Location of Projects

1.2.1 Existing Land Use

There is need to confirm conformity of the project to the existing planning framework or zoning plans to reduce land use conflicts.

1.2.2 Abundance, Quality and Regenerative Capacity of Natural Resources

A large amount of construction material may be required for the construction of the proposed development, some of which will be sourced from excavated materials on the site and this will impact the Natural Resources.

1.2.3 The Absorption Capacity of the Natural Environment

During the construction phase due to potential pollution incidences, measures must be put in place to protect affected water bodies and to maintain or improve the water quality status

The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas: wetlands, coastal zones, mountain and forest areas, nature reserves and parks, areas classified or protected under legislation, densely populated areas, landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

1.3 Characteristics of the Potential Impact

1.3.3 Extent of the Impact

Using an example of a road project, the footprint of the proposed road development may be much larger to include impacts of the material sites, camp site, designated vehicular parking areas, road diversions, road closures, displacement of people, and environmentally sensitive areas among others.

The population affected by the proposed road development may differ depending on the location.

1.3.4 Trans-frontier Nature of the Impact

If the development is part of a country that borders another country trans-frontier impact of the development should be considered.

1.3.5 Magnitude and Complexity of the Impact

Human Beings: During construction, temporary negative impacts are predicted due to noise, dust and visual impacts. These impacts may be insignificant if proper mitigation measures are put in place. However, social and cultural issues such as; displacement of communities and the need for resettlement action planning may present complex dimensions during project implementation.

Ecology: Likely significant effects to the ecology of the area should be considered at this stage.

Soils and Geology: Due to the large volumes of peat and other unsuitable material that is likely to be excavated in some projects the environmental assessment needs to consider the likely interaction with other environmental topics such as air quality, noise and vibration, landscape and the ecology of the watercourses in the study area. Likely significant effects to the soils and geology of the area cannot be ruled out at this stage and further assessments are required.

Water: Likely significant effects to water quality and in particular groundwater quality cannot be ruled out at this stage and further assessments is required. Best practice standards, environmental guidelines and mitigation measures should be adhered to in order to avoid impacts on water quality.

Air and Climate: Likely significant effects to the air quality as a result of peat extraction cannot be ruled out at this stage and further

assessments are required.

Noise and Vibration: An increase in noise and vibration levels is expected during the construction stage but the impact is likely to be temporary in nature.

Landscape: The proposed project may be developed taking into consideration the existing environment, landscaping and re-vegetation, preservation of indigenous species among others. However, significant environmental effects cannot be ruled out at this stage.

Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage:

Although efforts should be made to avoid sites as much as possible however it is likely that all recorded archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites may not be avoided and there is potential for additional sites to be discovered throughout the course of the project.

Interactions: There may be considerable interaction between many of the environmental topics due to the location of the proposed development, particularly between the water environment and ecological receptors and between ecology and landscape.

Overall: Many of the environmental aspects listed above may be affected by the proposed development. At this stage of the project the likely significance of these effects cannot be determined and there is potential for interaction between the various environmental aspects. Therefore, significant environmental effects cannot be ruled out without further surveys, investigations and assessments.

1.3.6 Probability of the Impact

During the construction stage noise nuisances and air pollution have a high probability of occurrence. Impacts are also likely on ecology, watercourses and landscape.

1.3.7 Duration, Frequency and Reversibility of the Impact

The majority of the significant impacts during the development may be associated with the construction stage. These impacts are likely to be temporary, reversible and one- off.

The loss of habitat due to the development is likely to be irreversible and permanent. However, the duration, frequency and

reversibility of the impacts due to the development cannot be predicted at this stage of the project without survey, investigation and assessment.

1.4 Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

Identify measures to avoid or minimize significant adverse impacts and maximize on positive effects and propose mitigation measures for the proposed project projects.

The Proposed Environmental Management Plan (EMP) must specify the anticipated impacts, proposed mitigation measures; responsibilities for implementing mitigation measures, reasonable costs estimated involved and time frame to implement the measures for each of the project phases.

1.5 Public participation

Evidence of undertaking adequate public participation with the project affected persons in form of dully filled questionnaires or dully signed minutes with attendance list

1.6 Land ownership

Evidence of land ownership including;

i. Title deed
ii. Dully executed lease agreement registered at the lands registry *(where there is no ownership for lessor)*
iii. Letter of allotment from the County Government

1.7 Other relevant authorization/approvals

i. Change of user where applicable
ii. Water Resource Authorization for boreholes, dams, etc
iii. Water Resource Authorization pegging report where the project neighbours a water body