

PAN AFRICA RESOURCES: BARBERTON MINES – FAIRVIEW TSF AND RECLAMATION OF HISTORIC DUMPS

REPORT ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

NOVEMBER 2019

1 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the Public Participation Process (PPP) that has and will be followed for the application made by Pan Africa Resources PLC: Barberton Mines (Pty) Ltd – Fairview Mine, hereinafter referred to as “the Applicant”.

Barberton Mines, which forms part of Pan African Resources PLC, owns and operates the existing Fairview Mine near the town of Barberton, Mpumalanga. Mining in the area commenced in the late 1880's.

At Fairview (Reference Number MP/30/5/1/2/2/191 MR) the Mining operation comprises underground gold mining, as well as surface reclamation of Tailings material. Ore is processed on site at the Fairview Infrastructure area to produce gold. Tailings waste produced by these processes, are currently being deposited on the existing Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) known as the BTRP TSF, or the New Bramber Tailings Dam. The BTRP/New Bramber TSF does not have sufficient capacity to facilitate ongoing production. Barberton Mines therefore proposes to construct a new facility at the site of the original Bramber TSF which has since been reclaimed. The proposed TSF will be referred to as the Fairview TSF.

Historical gold mining in the area has resulted in several waste dumps throughout the area. Many of these dumps still contain high percentages of gold. In addition to the proposed construction of the new Fairview TSF, Barberton Mines wishes to obtain the necessary authorizations to recover material from these historic dumps via mechanical methods and re-process the material in the existing Fairview Plant. This reprocessing has two main objectives, namely gold recovery from the deposits and environmental clean-up.

Cabanga Environmental has been appointed by the Applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to facilitate the required environmental authorisation application processes and associated PPP.

The PPP aims to involve the authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the project application process; and determine their needs, expectations and perceptions. An open and transparent process was and will be followed at all times and is based on the reciprocal dissemination of information.

The PPP was designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to I&APs in an objective manner to assist them to:

- Raise issues of concern and suggestions for enhanced benefits;
- Contribute local knowledge and experience;
- Verify that their issues have been captured;

The following sections outline the steps that have and will be undertaken in line with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and its Regulations (GNR 326 – PPP guideline and Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended). All the relevant documents have been included as Annexures where relevant.

2 PPP UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

2.1 Identification of Authorities

2.1.1 Competent Authority

As per NEMA and its Regulations, the Competent Authority for the Environmental Authorisation and Waste Management License Processes was identified as the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).

2.1.2 Regulatory Authorities

Local and Regional authorities were identified from similar projects in the past and included in the I&AP register (**Annexure A**).

The Authorities contacted with regards to this project include:

- Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (MDEDET)
- Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)
- Inkomati- Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA)
- Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
- City of Mbombela Local Municipality
- Ehlanzeni District Municipality
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
- City of Mbombela Local Municipality Ward Councillor- Ward 43
- Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation
- Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
- Department of Transport
- Department of Public Works

2.1.3 Land Owners

Landowners of the directly affected properties were identified and included in the I&AP register (see **Annexure A**). Directly affected landowners are summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Land Owners of the directly affected properties

Farm	Registered owner
Sheba 940JU	National Government Of South Africa
Fairview 542 Portion RE	Barberton Mines Pty Ltd
Bramber South 349 Portion Re	Barberton Mines Pty Ltd
Bramber Central 348 Portion Re	Barberton Mines Pty Ltd
Worrall 352 Portion Re	Provincial Government Of Mpumalanga

2.1.4 Communities

The following community representatives and resident associations were identified and included in the I&AP register (**Annexure A**):

- Lomshiyo Trust

2.1.5 Adjacent Land Owners / Users:

Landowners and land users immediately adjacent properties were identified and included in the I&AP register (**Annexure A**) as far as possible.

2.2 Notification

2.2.1 Background Information Documents

Background Information Documents (BIDs) were compiled in English and SiSwati and were distributed via e-mail and post to all the identified authorities, organs of state as discussed above and I&AP's from old databases and the new database compiled.

Hard Copies were hand delivered on the 5-6th November 2019 to affected parties (land owners and users) where possible. In some cases no one could be located on the property; in such a case the BID was attached to the property gate.

The purpose of the BID was to:

- Introduce the project to the I&APs;
- Inform I&APs of the proposed applications and associated regulatory processes; and
- Initiate a process of public consultation to record perceptions and issues.

A copy of the BID has been included in **Annexure B** for reference and proof of notification has been included in **Annexure C**.

2.2.2 Advertisements

An advertisement, informing people of the proposed activities and requesting readers to register as I&APs, was placed in one (1) local newspaper (in both English and SiSwati):

- Newshorn, publication date 13th November 2019.

A copy of this advertisement will be appended to the **Final Scoping Report**. At the time of this submission the newspaper had not been published as yet.

2.2.3 Notices / Posters

A2 posters, written in English and SiSwati, informing people of the proposed activities and requesting I&APs to register were placed on the **site boundary fence** and at other public locations; including:

- Mine Village
- City of Mbombela Local Municipality

Please refer to **Annexure D** for a copy of the posters, and photographic evidence thereof.

2.3 Public Meetings

The Scoping Phase Public Meeting is anticipated to take place at the end of November 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the project to I&APs and explain the environmental authorisation process. All registered I&APs will be notified of the meeting's date through emails and sms's.

Copies of the minutes will be sent to all registered I&APs. Minutes will be sent via e-mail and people who do not have access to e-mail will be sent an SMS informing them that the minutes are available and advising them where to find copies thereof. In addition, the minutes will be uploaded onto the Cabanga website for download.

A second public meeting is planned for the EIA phase of the application process.

2.3.1 Consultation Meetings

A consultation was held on 5th November 2019 with representatives of the local community, including the Ward Councillor. Minutes of this meeting can be found under **Annexure E**. BID's were also delivered to attendees of this meeting.

2.4 Document Review

2.4.1 Scoping Report

The Draft Scoping Report will be made available to the public for review and comment from the 13 November 2019 to 13 December 2019 at the following locations:

- Online at www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za;
- At the Barberton Public Library; and
- At the Sinqobile Youth Centre / Community Centre

All registered I&APs will be informed of the reports availability via e-mail, fax and post.

3 SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND RESPONSE

Table 2 below summarises the issues and responses received from the various authorities, organs of state and I&APs to date. Copies of all correspondence has been attached as **Annexure E**.

Table 2: Issues and Response Table

Comment (from community meeting 5 November 2019)	Response
<p>It was stated that a company named Mabaclocks claim to own the historic dumps in the mountains and that they are reclaiming and processing similar material just outside of the border of the nature reserve. The legal status of these operations isn't clear.</p>	<p>Cabanga committed to look into the matter by consulting the SAMRAD system to verify if such a license is in place. It was explained that ownership of such historic dumps usually belongs to the owner / person responsible for the surface rights, under common-law obligations, which in this case would be the nature reserve, or the Mine, as the case may be.</p>
<p>The question was raised: how many people will benefit from this project.</p>	<p>It was explained that the project is not aimed at the creation of new job opportunities, but that the Mine needs additional TSF capacity, to keep operating the plant and the Mine. Thus, the retention of the approximately 2000 existing jobs at Fairview Mine will be at risk if the project is not implemented. Some opportunities may be associated with the project and more detail should be provided in the scoping phase and EIA phase reports and meetings.</p>
<p>A community member asked whether the project will encroach on the community garden and other surrounding cultivated areas, and asked about the timing of construction of the new TSF.</p>	<p>It was confirmed that the community garden and other surrounding areas will not be directly affected as the new TSF is proposed on the footprint of the previous Bramber TSF, and adjoining the existing BTRP TSF (New Bramber Tailings Dam). The new TSF may not be built until all the necessary authorizations are in place. The EIA process normally takes about 12 months but there is pressure from the Mine Management to complete this EIA process as soon as possible.</p>
<p>The level of involvement of Provincial Government Departments in the EIA Process was questioned.</p>	<p>It was explained that the Department of Mineral Resources is the competent authority in terms of this application, and that Provincial Departments of agriculture and environmental affairs as well as other State Owned Entities (SOE's) and various organizations are informed of the Project, as part of the PPP, and invited to attend meetings and provide comments.</p>
<p>A community member asked whether the ongoing reclamation activities and the new TSF will affect air quality and/or water resources negatively within the community.</p>	<p>The impacts of reclamation would have been assessed as part of the BTRP applications. Those impacts should be considered in the reports, as they would be cumulative to any new impacts associated with this proposed project. It was also confirmed that an air quality impact assessment, hydrology impact assessment (surface water) and hydrogeology impact assessment (groundwater) has been commissioned as part of the EIA Process.</p>
<p>A community member wanted to know if Cabanga Environmental will contribute to the community projects such as the community centre, as part of their corporate social responsibility.</p>	<p>Cabanga and Barberton Mines explained that all contractors to Barberton Mines, including Cabanga in this case, commits to making a contribution, calculated as a percentage of the contract value, to the Barberton Mines Transformation Trust (BMTT), from where the Mine is able to make more meaningful contributions to community projects in a coordinated manner.</p>
<p>A request was made to include the reference number for the application on the Plans.</p>	<p>It was confirmed that the correct reference number is displayed on the Background Information Document (BID) which was distributed in English and SiSwati to all attendees, and that future plans will also carry the reference number.</p>

ANNEXURE A:
REGISTER OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APS)

ANNEXURE B:
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**ANNEXURE E:
MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**ANNEXURE VII:
CORRESPONDENCE WITH AUTHORITIES AND I&APS**