

**MHLOLI MINING AND EXPLORATION (PTY) LTD**

**APPLICATION FOR A PROSPECTING RIGHT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR GOLD ON THE FARM RIETBULT 523, LIMPOPO PROVINCE: REF: LP30/5/1/1/2/13968PR**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Mhloli Mining and Exploration (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as "Mhloli") is a mining and exploration company that came into existence in 2018.

Mhloli has submitted an application for a Prospecting Right to prospect for gold on the farm Rietbult in Limpopo, via non-invasive and invasive methods. The farm is located approximately 6 kilometres from the town of Morebeng in the Molemole Local Municipality, the Capricorn District Municipality and the Makhado Magisterial District, Limpopo. No formal roads will be constructed, the existing farm roads will be utilized. The site camp will consist of a few container offices/caravan offices, generator for power and portable chemical toilets.

The proposed prospecting activities will involve the undertaking of Listed Activities identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA). Therefore, a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) are required.

A Water Use License application in terms of the National Water Act, Act No. 36 of 1998 (NWA) will not be necessary as water uses will not be triggered.

Cabanga has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to complete the necessary environmental applications.

**2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This document (the Background Information Document or "BID") has been compiled to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), with information on the proposed project and the associated environmental authorisation process.

The reader is hereby invited to participate freely and submit any questions or information that may contribute to the process. All comments received will be recorded and addressed as part of the environmental impact assessment process.

**Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to us on Fax: 011 794 6946 or [info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za](mailto:info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za) to register as an I&AP.**

**3. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

ITEM	DETAIL
<b>Type of mineral</b>	Gold (and ancillary minerals including Nickel, Copper, Iron and Silver)
<b>Prospecting method</b>	Trenching and potential drilling of boreholes
<b>Depth of the mineral below surface</b>	Maximum 5 metre trenching depth
<b>Geological formation</b>	Bandelierkop Formation
<b>Life of Prospecting</b>	Prospecting Right would be needed for about 3 years.

Prospecting activities will consist of both non-invasive and invasive techniques. Non-invasive techniques will involve the review of historical data, desktop study, quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) and generation of a database (the database will contain a historical data inventory and geological features within the area), remote sensing surveys and the generation of an initial geological model. Invasive techniques will be the establishment of trenching test pits and possibly drilling of boreholes.

Associated activities include:

- Clearance of vegetation in areas where trenching is proposed
- Establishment of a site camp- container offices/caravan offices, generator for power and portable chemical toilets.
- Rehabilitation: The trenches will be concurrently rehabilitated, by backfilling with material (soils and topsoil's where applicable). Should borehole drilling take place the affected areas will be rehabilitated.
- No formal roads will be constructed; existing farm roads will be used as far as possible.

The results of the Prospecting investigations will be used to quantify the mineral resource and the economic feasibility of mining these in future. Please note that this application relates to Prospecting activities only and NOT Mining. Should the results of the Prospecting be favourable, a full Mining Right Application and applicable environmental authorisation will be required.

**Service Requirements:**

- Power from diesel/petrol powered generators will be used on site, the generators will power the basic office needs.
- Water for potable use will be brought onto site, no abstraction from groundwater or surface water resources will be required during Prospecting.
- Portable chemical toilets will be used and sewage collected by a reputable contractor and disposed of at a licensed facility.
- General domestic waste and hazardous waste bins will be provided throughout the site to ensure separation of general and hazardous waste at source. Bins will be emptied into skips on site (separated as either general or hazardous waste). Skips will be removed from site by contractors for disposal.
- No accommodation will be provided on site, all personnel will make use of accommodation in the nearest towns or communities.

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS**

An application for an environmental authorisation has been submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), as required in terms of NEMA.

As the application relates to Prospecting, a Basic Assessment process will be followed. The steps in this process are briefly outlined below:

- **Public Participation**
  - Submit Public Participation Plan to DMRE for approval.
  - Identify I&APs.
  - Circulate BIDs, place site notices, advertisements and place Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for public review.
- **Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan:**
  - Desktop investigations of the baseline environment.
  - Site investigations to assess site.

90 Days

- Identify potential impacts for further consideration.
- Impacts are rated and mitigation measures proposed where possible.
- Monitoring programmes proposed to ensure mitigation measures are efficient.
- Report is compiled and put out for public review for a period of 30 days. Comments from the public review and comment period are incorporated into the final report for submission to DMRE

107 Days

- **Decision**
  - DMRE makes a decision on the application and issues a record of decision
  - All I&APs are notified of the outcome of application, and their right to appeal.

The report will be compiled in the format prescribed by the DMRE, in accordance with NEMA.

The overall timeframe for the environmental authorisation process is approximately 197 days as regulated by NEMA.

**5. LISTED ACTIVITIES**

The following table summarises the preliminary list of activities identified in terms of NEMA as included in the application for environmental authorisation:

APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE	ACTIVITY NUMBER (Listing Notice Activities triggered that will require a BAR):
GN 327: Listing Notice 1	20: Applying for a prospecting Right 27: Vegetation clearance less than 20 hectares
GN 324 Listing Notice 3	12 (e): Clearance of over 300m <sup>2</sup> of vegetation in a sensitive ecosystem.

**6. WATER USES**

The lead authority for the authorisation of water uses in terms of the National Water Act (NWA) is the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHSWS).

Water requirements for the project are expected to be minimal and restricted to that of potable use (drinking water). This water will be brought onto site and no abstraction of ground or surface water will be undertaken on site. Water uses will not be triggered therefore a Water Use License application will not be necessary.

## 6. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following **potential** impacts have been identified at this stage of the project, and will be investigated further during the compilation of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) report: -

### Impacts:

- Loss of agricultural land capability.
- Soil contamination, soil erosion and soil compaction.
- Impact on critically endangered species Lotana Blue butterfly (*Lepidochrysops lotana*) and short-eared trident bat (*Cloeotis percivali*) as well as faunal diversity that live within the Makhado Sweet Bushveld.
- Impact on endangered/rare trees, Marula (*Sclerocarya birrea*) and the Camel Thorn (*Acacia erioloba*) if these are not buffered out before prospecting commenced as well as floral diversity in the Makhado Sweet Bushveld.
- Impacts on groundwater quality and groundwater volume.
- Reduction of catchment yield.
- Flooding of prospecting trenches.
- Pollution of downstream surface water resources due to contaminated and sediment loaded storm water.
- Siltation of water resources due to erosion of rehabilitated areas.
- Natural landscape impacted.
- Loss of Wetland Ecological structure due to: encroachment into the NFEPA wetlands, increased runoff, erosion and sedimentation of wetlands as well as contamination from waste generation.
- Sedimentation to Khwali river and non-perennials.
- Hydrocarbon fuel spillage and contamination of water resources.
- Crime and security/safety incidences.
- Noise pollution and damage of hearing to workers near loud machinery (vehicles and generators).
- Pollution.
- Dust generation.
- Heritage sites discovered and potentially destroyed if not discovered and buffered out before prospecting commenced.

- Loss of fossils found while trenching and drilling for minerals if chance procedure not followed.

**Should you be aware of any additional impacts please do so by completing the attached questionnaire.**

## 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement is an essential component of the environmental process. It addresses the right of I&APs to be informed of the proposed activities and to be involved in decisions that affect them. It also affords the environmental assessment practitioner the opportunity to assess and address the issues and concerns raised by I&APs thus allowing us to assess all the potential impacts of the proposed project.

**Invitation to comment:** The Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and Environmental Management Program (EMP) report will be available for public review and comment for a minimum period of thirty (30) days.

**The BAR and EMP Report will be available from 11 January 2021- 9 February 2021 at the following locations:**

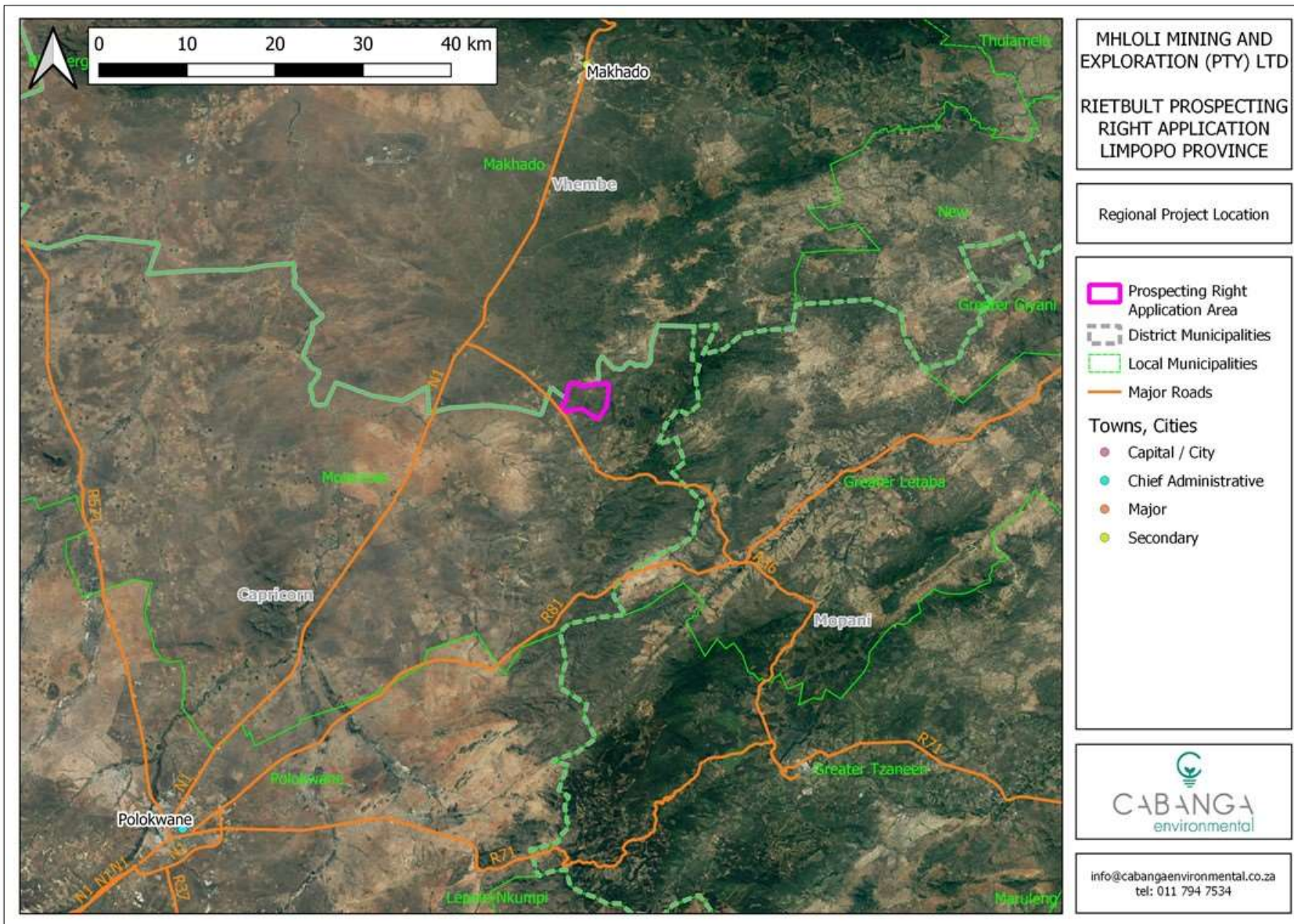
- [www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za](http://www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za) (under the Public Participation tab)
- Morebeng Police Station (69 Vivier Street) & Morebeng Public Library

**Please ensure your comments reach us on or before the 9 February 2021.**

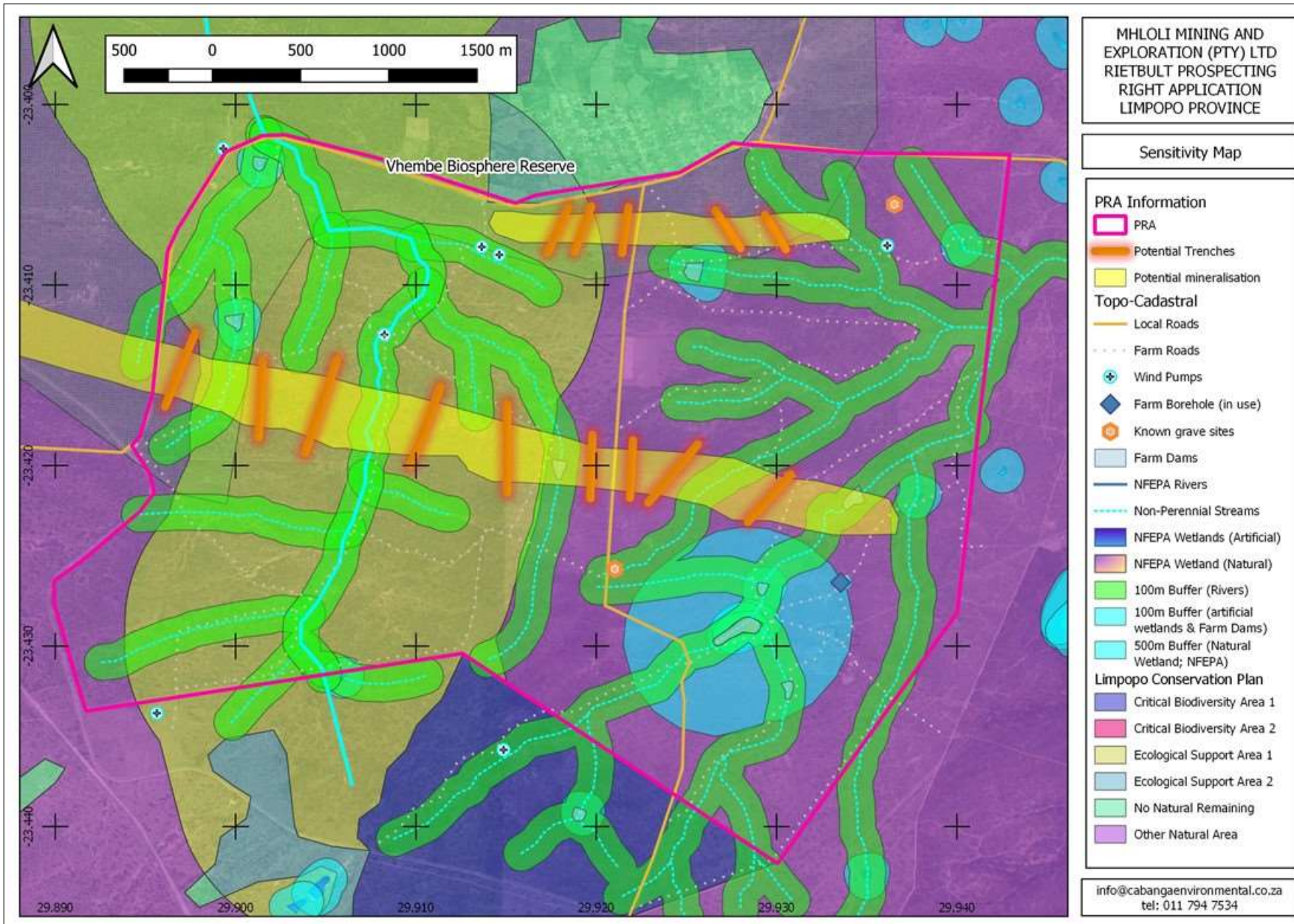


**Contact Us:**

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Plan 1: Regional Plan



Plan 2: Draft Trenching Layout and Environmental Sensitivities

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE: RIETBULT**

**To register as an I&AP, please complete and return to Cabanga via e-mail:, fax or post:**



[info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za](mailto:info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za); Fax: (011) 794 6946

Postnet Suite 470, P/Bag X3, Northriding, 2162

**Alternatively please register on [www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za](http://www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za) click on "Public Participation"**

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Surname:</b>	
<b>Telephone No.:</b>		<b>Fax No.:</b>	
<b>Post:</b>			
<b>E-mail:</b>			
<b>How would you prefer to be contacted:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> SMS		
<b>Are you an immediately affected or adjacent land owner or user?</b>  <b>If no, what is your interest in the project?</b>  <b>If yes, please indicate your farm / property name as well as details on the current land use.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>Do you have any vested interest in the approval or refusal of this project?</b> If yes, please elaborate.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>Do you feel that the proposed activities will impact on you and / or your socio-economic conditions?</b> How?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>Are you aware of any additional impacts not yet identified?</b>			
<b>Are you aware of any sensitive areas that should be avoided (i.e. graves, cultural sites, endangered species, special environmental features or areas etc.)</b>			
<b>Do you have any alternative mitigation measures to propose?</b>			
<b>Do you know of any other persons, organisations or parties (mineral rights owners, landowners etc) that should be notified?</b>  <b>Please provide contact details.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>Do you have any additional comments, concerns or queries?</b>			