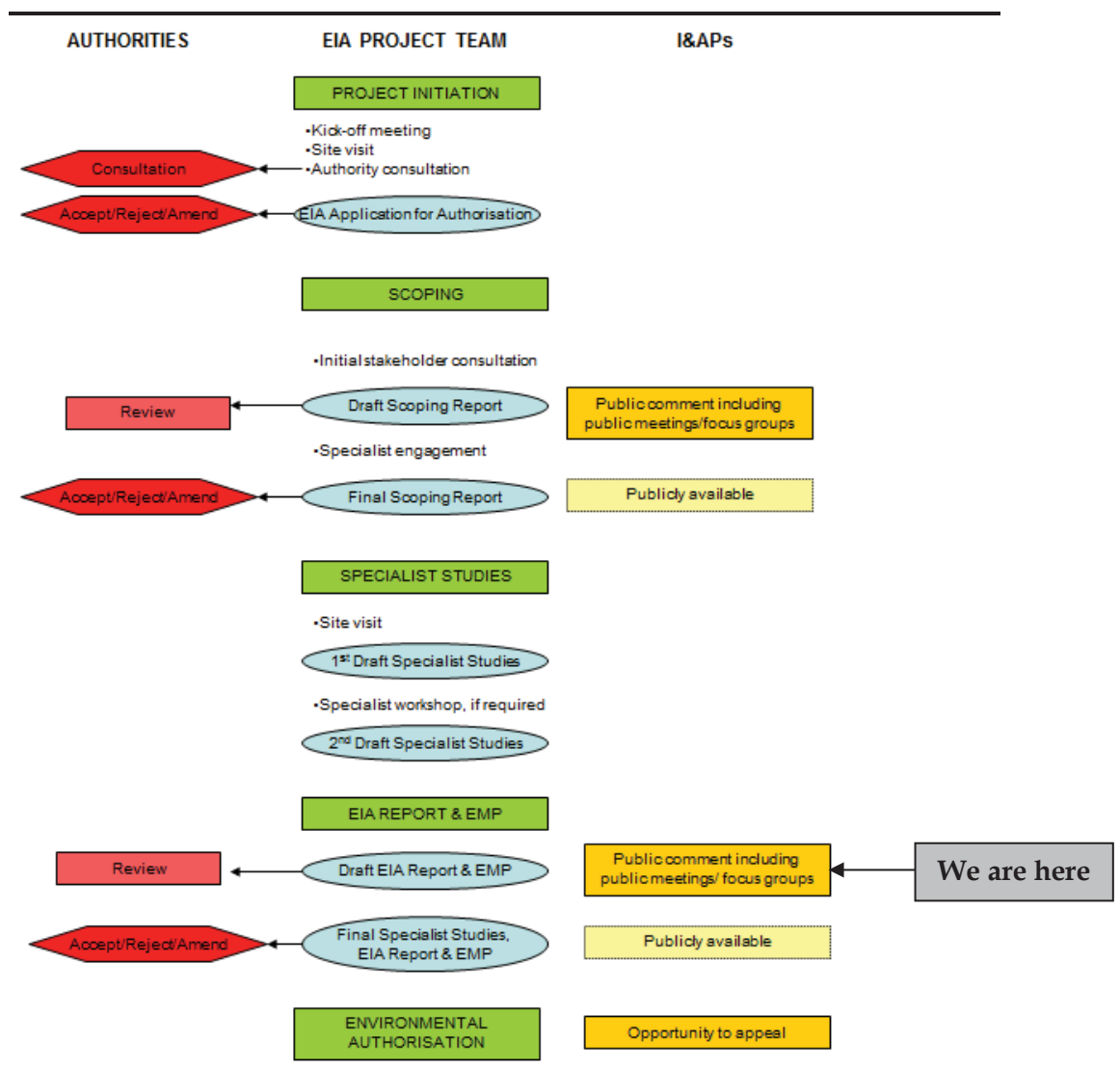


Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a systematic process that identifies and evaluates the potential impacts (positive and negative) that a proposed project may have on the biophysical and socio-economic environment, and identifies mitigation measures that need to be implemented in order to avoid, minimise or reduce the negative impacts and also identifies measures to enhance positive impacts. The overall EIA process required is shown schematically in *Figure 3.1*. It is not fully a linear process, but one where several stages are carried out in parallel and where the assumptions and conclusions are revisited and modified as the project progresses.

Figure 3.1 EIA Process Flow Diagram



3.1 SCOPING PHASE

The first phase of the EIA process is the Scoping Phase. During this phase there is a strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement and understanding the baseline conditions of the project site and potential impacts that need to be investigated in further detail during subsequent phases of the EIA.

3.1.1 *Project Initiation*

As part of the project initiation ERM carried out an initial site reconnaissance visit from 1 to 5 October 2012. The purpose of the site visit was to familiarise the project team with the project proposal and study area and to begin the environmental and social screening and scoping process.

3.1.2 *Authority Consultation*

ERM submitted an EIA Application for Authorisation to the DEA on 24 August 2012. DEA's Acknowledgement of Receipt and approval to proceed with the Scoping Phase was received on 07 September 2012. DEA assigned the reference 14/12/16/3/3/2/405 to the project.

A Waste Management License Application has also been submitted to DEA (Reference number 12/9/11/L1181/8) and the application process for environmental authorisation and waste management licencing will be handled as an integrated process by DEA).

3.1.3 *Approval of Scoping Report*

The Final Scoping Report was submitted to the DEA on 13 March 2013 and approval to proceed with the specialist study phase and integration and assessment phase was received from the DEA.

3.2 SPECIALIST STUDIES PHASE

Specialists gathered data relevant to identifying and assessing environmental impacts that might occur as a result of the proposed project. Potential impacts were assessed according to a predefined assessment methodology included in the Scoping Report. Specialists also suggested ways in which negative impacts could be mitigated and benefits could be enhanced. The independent specialists responsible for the specialist studies are listed in *Table 3.1*.

Table 3.1 Independent Specialist Studies and Appointed Specialists

Specialist Study	Name and Organisation	Qualifications
Archaeological, Heritage and Palaeontology	Elize Becker (Private Consultant)	BSc Hons, Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Pretoria
	David Morris (peer review) (McGregor Museum)	Head of Archaeology at the McGregor Museum in Kimberley and PhD candidate at the University of the Western Cape
	John Almond (Private Consultant)	PhD Earth Sciences (Palaeontology), University of Cambridge
Air Quality	Mark Zunckel (uMoya-NILU Consulting Pty Ltd)	PhD Meteorology, University of Witwatersrand
Noise and Vibration	Demos Dracoulides (DDA Environmental Engineers)	MSc Engineering, (Energy Studies), University of Cape Town
Botany and Terrestrial Ecology	Simon Todd (Simon Todd Consulting)	MSc, Cum Laude Conservation Biology University of Cape Town
Socio-Economic	Janet Mkhabela (ERM)	MA, Policy & Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Hydrological Assessment	Mr Retief Grobler (Imperata Consulting)	BSc (Hons) Botany, MSc Botany and wetland / riverine assessment

All specialist reports and declarations of independence are included in *Annex F*. The social specialist is employed by ERM and therefore acts as an independent environmental/ social practitioner within the EIA project team.

3.3 INTEGRATION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE

The final phase of the EIA process is the Integration and Assessment Phase. The assessment of impacts proceeds through an iterative process considering three key elements:

- a) **Prediction of the significance** of impacts that is the consequences of the proposals on the natural and social environment.
- b) **Development of mitigation measures** to avoid, reduce or manage the impacts.
- c) **Assessment of residual significant impacts** after the application of mitigation measures.

Public participation forms part of the EIA process throughout its life cycle. Table 3.2 provides details on the public participation tasks that have been undertaken to date.

Table 3.2 *Public Participation during the EIA Process*

Activity	Details	Reference in EIA Report
Announcement Phase/Stakeholder Consultation		
Field visit to the Compilation Yard and public meetings in the town of Kathu.	Field visit during 1 – 5 October 2012 within the Northern Cape to gather baseline information, consult with key stakeholders, gather additional stakeholder information and put up site notices.	N/A
Distribution of project announcement letter and Background Information Document (BID).	BID and announcement documentation emailed and posted in English and Afrikaans to stakeholders on Wednesday 2 October and Thursday 3 October 2012.	Annexure C BID, letters, registration and comment sheet, adverts, site notices.
Placing of adverts.	Newspaper adverts, in English and Afrikaans, were placed in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset Budget on 04 October 2012; • Volksblad on 04 October 2012; • The Kathu Gazette on 06 October 2012; and • West and East Burger on 15 October 2012. 	Annexure C BID, letters, registration and comment sheet, adverts, site notices.
Putting up of site notices.	English, Afrikaans, Xhosa and Tswana site notices were put up at the project site, local library and frequently visited shops within the study area.	Annexure C BID, letters, registration and comment sheet, adverts, site notices.
Identification of stakeholders.	Stakeholder database includes information from existing ERM databases, information provided by Transnet and stakeholder information gathered during the field visit.	Annexure B Stakeholder database.
Consultation with relevant stakeholders.	Consultations with key stakeholders and directly affected landowners were conducted between 24 September and 5 October 2012 in the Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces. All comments, issues of concern and suggestions were captured in the Comment and Response Report.	A Comment and Response Report was included in the Final Scoping Report.
Obtained comments from stakeholders.	Comments, issues of concern and suggestions received from stakeholders were captured in the Comment and Response Report.	A Comment and Response Report was included in the Final Scoping Report.
Scoping Phase		
Announcement of Draft Scoping Report.	Draft Scoping Report announcement were sent to I&APs on the stakeholder database during November 2012 together with a notification of the Kathu	Annexure C Public Participation material.

	public meetings held on 5 December 2012. The public review period extended from 19 November 2012 to 09 January 2013 (thus excluding the period of 15 December to 02 January). A newspaper advert was placed in the Kathu Gazette to invite stakeholders to public meetings and to announce the availability of the Draft Scoping Report for review.	
Making Draft Scoping Report available to I&APs.	Draft Scoping Report and accompanying documents were placed at the Kathu Public Library. The Draft Scoping Report was also available on the project website: www.erm.com/transnet-expansion .	Annexure C Public Participation material.
Stakeholder meetings.	The public meeting was held in the Kathu Community Hall on 05 December 2012. The public meeting was announced together with the announcement of the availability of the Draft Scoping Report.	A Comment and Response Report and Meeting Minutes were included in the Final Scoping Report.
Obtain comments from stakeholders.	Comments, issues of concern and suggestions received from stakeholders during the Draft Scoping Report public review period were captured into the Comment and Response Report.	A Comment and Response Report was included in the Final Scoping Report.
Making Final Scoping Report available to I&APs	The Final Scoping Report was simultaneously submitted to the competent authority and made available to I&APs on 13 March 2012.	N/A
Impact Assessment Phase		
Making Draft EIR available to I&APs.	Draft EIR and accompanying documents were placed at the Kathu Public Library. The Draft EIR is also available on the project website: www.erm.com/transnet-expansion	Annexure C Public Participation material.

Comments received on the Draft EIR will be assimilated and the EIA project team will provide responses to all comments. A Comments and Responses Report will be appended to the Final EIR, which will be submitted to DEA for decision-making.

Registered I&APs and members of the public will be notified when an Environmental Authorisation has been issued by DEA. A 20-day notice of intention to appeal period followed by a 30-day appeal period will follow the issuing of the Environmental Authorisation.

3.5

PROPOSED TIMEFRAME FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE EIA PROCESS

The estimated schedule for the remainder of the EIA process is presented in *Table 3.3*.

Table 3.3 *Estimated EIA Process Schedule*

Task	Date
Stakeholder Comment on Draft EIA Report and EMP	Sept/October 2013
Finalise EIA Report & EMP and submit to DEA	October 2013
Acceptance of EIA Report and EMP received from DEA	November 2013
Decision on Environmental Authorisation	January 2014