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Image Source: Hanslab (Pty) Ltd, 2020

EASTERN CAPE ACCESS ROAD

Hanslab (Pty) Ltd was appointed to undertake the Environmental Services of a proposed access road in Mbizana (Bizana) Eastern Cape. Currently there exists an informal foot path that is used by the local community to access schools and other services. This foot path crosses through several tributaries which floods during heavy rainfall periods causing the community to be left stranded and pose a threat to human life. The BMK Group are the Engineers on the project and have proposed the development of a gravel road and the construction of structures in the tributaries which aim to reduce the potential risk to human life as well as assist the natural flow of the tributaries during periods of high rainfall. Hanslab has engaged with Specialists, the Ward Councillor and the Community in order to involve them in this process and understand their research and requirements. This assists an Environmental Assessment Practitioner in motivating for the development against the potential negative effects of the development on the receiving environment.



Image Source: Hanslab (Pty) Ltd, 2020

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Tributary on Site

An existing tributary where the proposed access road is anticipated to cross



Image Source: The Biodiversity Company, 2020



Image Source: Hanslab (Pty) Ltd, 2020

Surrounding Community

Existing formal and informal residential units (scattered) border the proposed existing road track. Owing to the foot traffic traversing through this area there is a critical need to formalise the road.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Since there are no formal crossings in place, the Engineers have noted that there have been reported cases of student fatalities owing to attempted river crossings during high flood levels. The lack of these formalized routes is a major concern to the surrounding community primarily due to safety of the people. This is especially prominent for senior citizens and scholars who use the unformalized pathways on daily basis. From our assessment and completion of the Draft Basic Assessment Report, Hanslab can motivate that the proposed road has been strategically planned to cater for the improved needs and necessities of the community while being mindful of imposing the least negative environmental impacts.