



APPLICATION FORM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WASTE ACT, 2008 IN RESPECT OF LISTED ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (MPRDA) (AS AMENDED).

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Kindly note that:

1. As from 8 December 2014, this document serves as the application form, and incorporates the requisite documents that are to be submitted together with the application for the necessary environmental authorisations in terms of the said Acts.
2. This application form is applicable while the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Amendment Act of 2008 is in effect, as the form may require amendment should the Act be further amended.
3. Applicants are required to apply for the necessary water use licence and any other authorisations or licences to the relevant competent authorities as required by the relevant legislation. Upon acceptance of an application for a right or permit in terms of the MPRDA, applicants will be required to provide evidence to the Regional Manager that a water use licence has been applied for.
4. The Regional Manager will respond to the application and provide the reference and correspondence details of the Competent Authority, and in the event that the application for a right or permit is accepted, together with the date by which the relevant environmental reports must be submitted. Notwithstanding anything that may appear to be stated to the contrary in the acceptance letter, the timeframes are in fact aligned and the prescribed timeframes for the submission of documents as regulated by the NEMA regulations must be strictly adhered to.
5. The application must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Spaces are provided in tabular format and will extend automatically when each space is filled with typing.
6. The failure to submit complete information as required in this application form may result in the refusal of the application for an environmental authorisation and consequently of the right or permit applied for.
7. This application must be submitted through the SAMRAD online application system of the Department of Mineral Resources under "Other documents to upload".
8. Unless protected by law, all information filled in on this application form will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Any interested and affected party should and shall be provided with the information contained in this application on request, during any stage of the application process.
9. Please note that an application fee is payable in terms of the National Environmental Management Act and the National Waste Management Act, which fees must be paid upon lodgement of the application. Should the said application fees not be paid as prescribed the application for a right or permit in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act cannot be considered to have been made in the prescribed manner and the said

application for a right or permit will have to be rejected. In this regard the type of applications must be identified in the table below.

**PLEASE STATE TYPE OF AUTHORISATIONS BEING APPLIED FOR.**

APPLICATION TYPE	APPLICABLE FEE	Mark with an X where applicable
NEMA S&EIR application on its own	R10 000.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEMA BAR application on its own	R 2 000.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEMWA S&EIR application on its own	R10 000.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEMWA BAR application on its own	R 2 000.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEMA S&EIR application combined with NEMWA S&EIR application	R 15 000.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEMA BAR application combined with NEMWA BAR application	R 3 000.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NEMA S&EIR application combined with NEMWA BAR application	R 11 000.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

**1. CONSULTATION BASIC ASSESSMENT AND/ OR SCOPING REPORT**

This is an application for a new Tailings Storage Facility requiring a NEMA S&EIR as part of an Integrated Environmental Authorisation and Waste Management License Application.

**2. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT**

Project applicant:	Golden Core Trade and Invest (Pty) Ltd. - Mponeng Operations		
Registration no (if any):	[REDACTED]		
Trading name (if any):	Mponeng Operations		
Responsible Person, (e.g. Director, CEO, etc.):	Neil Terblanche		
Contact person:	Hlayiseko Mashaba		
Physical address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]		
Postal address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]		
Postal code:	[REDACTED]	Cell:	[REDACTED]
Telephone:	[REDACTED]	Fax:	-
E-mail:	[REDACTED]		

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP) INFORMATION

EAP:	Monica Niehof		
Professional affiliation/registration:	Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner with EAPASA (2024/8835)		
Contact person (if different from EAP):	Same as EAP		
Company:	Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd		
Physical address:	8 Dalmeny Road, Pine Park, Randburg		
Postal address:	P.O Box 2083, Pinegowrie		
Postal code:	2123	Cell:	[REDACTED]
Telephone:	+27 (0)11 789 7170	Fax:	+27 (0)86 571 9047
E-mail:	[REDACTED]		

If an EAP has not been appointed please ensure that an independent EAP is appointed as stipulated by the NEMA Regulations, prior to the commencement of the process.

The declaration of independence and the Curriculum Vitae (indicating the experience with environmental impact assessment and relevant application processes) of the EAP must also be attached as **Appendix 1**.

### 4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<b>Farm Name</b>	The project area is situated within 2 farm properties distributed between Portion 25 of the Farm Doornfontein 118 IQ and Portion 93 of the Farm Blyvooruitzicht 116 IQ		
<b>Application Area (Ha)</b>	The application is for the increase of the approved height of 60 m with 5 to 10 m to a maximum approved height of 70 m of the existing TSF 7a and 7b on the same footprint.		
<b>Magisterial District</b>	Development area falls within the Merafong City Local Municipality Wards 5 and 27 of the West Rand District Municipality administrative area.		
<b>Distance and direction from nearest towns</b>	Savuka 7a & 7b TSFs is located at 26° 26'09.83"S; 27°21'11.03"E in Carletonville. The proposed development site is approximately 6.5km southwast of Carletonville central business district area.		
<b>21-digit Surveyor General Code for each Portion</b>	<b>Farm Name:</b>	<b>Portion:</b>	<b>21 Digit Surveyor General Code</b>
	Farm Doornfontein 118	25	T0IQ00000000011800025
	Farm Blyvooruitzicht 116	93	T0IQ00000000011600093
<b>Locality map</b>	Please find Locality attached as <b>Appendix 2</b> .		
<b>Description of the overall activity.</b>	The applicant holds an approved Mining Right (MR) and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), in terms of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development		

<p>(Indicate Mining Right, Mining Permit, Prospecting right, Bulk Sampling, Production Right, Exploration Right, Reconnaissance permit, Technical co-operation permit, Additional listed activity)</p>	<p>Act (Act 28 of 2002, as amended) (MPRDA), for the mining of gold at various operations in the West Wits region in the Gauteng Province. The Savuka Plant currently deposits tailings onto the Savuka 7a &amp; 7b Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs). However, these facilities are approaching their final and approved height, and the current planned Life of Mine (LOM) for the West Wits region exceed the available deposition capacity of these TSFs. Accordingly, the applicant is undertaking a feasibility assessment to increase the height of the Savuka 7a &amp; 7b TSFs. Slurry deposition is currently taking place on the Savuka 7a &amp; 7b TSFs and Harmony is proposing to extend the height of these TSFs.</p> <p>The precise dimensions and details of the proposed extension of the TSF will be provided in the draft Basic Assessment Report once the feasibility studies and engineering designs have been completed.</p>
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## 5. ACTIVITIES TO BE AUTHORIZED

(Please provide copies of Environmental Authorisations obtained for the same property as **Appendix 3**).

(For an application for authorisation indicated. Please note that for a project that involves more than one listed activity that, together, make up one development proposal, all the listed activities pertaining to this application must be included. Please note that any authorisation that may result from this application will only cover activities specifically applied for). (Attach a proposed site plan, drawn to a scale acceptable to the competent Authority, showing the location of all the activities to be applied for, as **Appendix 2**)

Name of activity	Aerial extent of the activity	Listed Activity	Applicable listing notice	Waste management authorisation
<p>(E.g. For prospecting - drill site, site camp, ablution facility, accommodation, equipment storage, sample storage, site office, access route etc...etc...etc)</p> <p>E.g. for mining,- excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc...etc.)</p>	Ha or m <sup>2</sup>	(Mark with an X where applicable or affected).		<p>(Indicate whether an authorisation is required in terms of the Waste Management Act).</p> <p>(Mark with an X)</p>
<p><b>Tailings Storage Facility – Water Use License Amendment</b></p> <p>The expansion of existing facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity where such expansion will result in the need for a permit or licence or an amended permit or licence in terms</p>	Increase of 10 m in height on existing	Activity 34	GNR983	

Name of activity	Aerial extent of the activity	Listed Activity	Applicable listing notice	Waste management authorisation
<p>of national or provincial legislation governing the release of emissions, effluent or pollution, excluding—</p> <p>(i) where the facility, infrastructure, process or activity is included in the list of waste management activities published in terms of section 19 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 applies;</p> <p>(ii) the expansion of existing facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater, polluted water or sewage where the capacity will be increased by less than 15 000 cubic metres per day; or</p> <p>(iii) the expansion is directly related to aquaculture facilities or infrastructure where the wastewater discharge capacity will be increased by 50 cubic meters or less per day.</p> <p><i>The TSFs to be extended has an existing Water Use License (08/C23E/AFGJCEI/12157) and will require an amendment to that WUL through a Water Use License Application Process.</i></p>	approximately 270 ha TSF.			
<p><b>Tailings Storage Facility - Extension</b></p> <p>The expansion of a waste management activity listed in Category A or B of this Schedule which does not trigger an additional waste management activity in terms of this Schedule.</p> <p><i>The TSFs to be extended will extend in height only and therefore, does not trigger any other additional waste management activity in terms of this Schedule.</i></p>	Increase of 10 m in height on existing approximately 270 ha TSF.	Category A: 13	GNR921	X

## 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(Provide details of the public participation process proposed for the application as required by Regulation.

### Details of the Public Participation process to be followed.

#### 6.1.1. IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES TO BE CONSULTED

IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA	Mark with an X where applicable	
	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Will the landowner be specifically consulted?	X	
Will the lawful occupier on the property other than the Landowner be consulted?	X	
Will a tribal authority or host community that may be affected be consulted?	X	
Will recipients of land claims in respect of the area be consulted?	X	
Will the landowners or lawful occupiers of neighbouring properties be identified?	X	
Will the local municipality be consulted?	X	
Will the Authority responsible for power lines within 100 metres of the area be consulted?	X	

Will Authorities responsible for public roads or railway lines within 100 metres of the area applied for be consulted?	X	
Will authorities responsible for any other infrastructure within 100 metres of the area applied for be consulted?	X	
Will the Provincial Department responsible for the environment be consulted?	X	
Will all of the parties identified above be provided with a description of the proposed mining /prospecting operation as referred above?	X	
Will all the parties identified above be requested in writing to provide information as to how their interests (whether it be socio-economic, cultural, heritage or environmental) will be affected by the proposed mining project?	X	
Other, Specify	N/A	

#### 6.1.2. DETAILS OF THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED

<b>Steps to be taken to notify interested and affected parties</b> (Describe the process to be undertaken to consult interested and affected parties including public meetings and one on one consultations. NB the affected parties must be specifically consulted regardless of whether or not they attended public meetings. Photographs of notice boards, and copies of advertisements and notices notifying potentially interested and affected parties of the proposed application must be attached as <b>Appendix 4</b> ).	<b>PROVIDE DESCRIPTION HERE</b>  Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) have been notified of the project via registered letters, emails and facsimiles including distribution of a Background Information Document (BID). Site notices and posters have been placed in and around the application area.  An initial notification period has been undertaken for this project. A total of five (6) site notices (A1 Size, correx) and 7 additional A3 Size posters have been placed in and around the proposed extension application area; in addition, newspaper advertisements were placed in the newspapers which are widely distributed in the area. The public participation process has been, and will continue to be, undertaken in accordance with the NEMA process and the 2014 Regulations. The draft basic assessment report will be made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, within the prescribed timeframes following submission of this Application Form. A further period of 30 days will be provided to I&AP's to comment on the final basic assessment report during that phase of the application process. The information submitted by I&AP's via any form will be utilised during the Impact Assessment and compilation of the basic assessment report.
<b>Information to be provided to Interested and Affected Parties.</b>	<b>Compulsory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site plans.</li> <li>• List of activities to be authorised.</li> <li>• Scale and extent of activities to be authorised.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typical impacts of activities to be authorised.</li> <li>• The duration of the activity.</li> <li>• Sufficient detail of the intended operation to enable them to assess what impact the activities will have on them or on the use of their land.</li> </ul>
	<b>Other, specify:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the proposed project.</li> <li>• Details of the affected properties (including parent farm and portion).</li> <li>• Details of the MPRDA, NEMA and NEMWA Regulations that must be adhered to.</li> <li>• The activities being applied for.</li> <li>• Date by which comment, concerns and objections must be submitted.</li> <li>• Contact details of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).</li> </ul>
<b>Information to be required from Interested and Affected Parties.</b>	<b>Compulsory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide information on how they consider that the proposed activities will impact on them or their socio-economic conditions.</li> <li>• To provide written responses stating their suggestions to mitigate the anticipated impacts of each activity.</li> <li>• To provide information on current land uses and their location within the area under consideration.</li> <li>• To provide information on the location of environmental features on site to make proposals as to how, and to what standard, the impacts on site can be remedied.</li> <li>• To mitigate the potential impacts on their socio-economic conditions to make proposals as to how the potential impacts can be managed, avoided or remedied.</li> </ul>
	<b>Other, Specify:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the landowner and information on lawful occupiers.</li> <li>• Details of any communities existing within the area.</li> <li>• Details of any Tribal Authorities within the area.</li> <li>• Details of any other I&amp;AP's that need to be notified.</li> <li>• Details on any land developments proposed.</li> <li>• Details of any perceived impacts to the environment that should be considered in the basic assessment report.</li> <li>• Any specific comments, concerns or objections to the proposed extension project.</li> </ul>

## 7. DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
<b>Environmental attributes.</b> <b>Describe how the</b>	For the BAR phase the description of the existing status of the current receiving environment will be compiled through site verification by the EAP, desktop data,

<b>Environmental attributes associated with the development footprint will be determined.</b>	<p>available GIS information as well as from recent monitoring reports and available information from the existing mine in addition to detailed specialist investigations to be completed.</p>
<b>Identification of impacts and risks. (Describe the process that will be used to identify impacts and risks.</b>	<p>The identification of potential impacts and risks for assessment will be undertaken through I&amp;AP consultation and the development of an in depth understanding of the activities, actions and processes to be undertaken on site based on the EAP's experience with similar projects as well as input from specialists. As such, the potential impacts and risks on broad environmental aspects, in respect of each of the main project actions, activities and processes will be assessed during the basic assessment process.</p> <p>The impact assessment methodology to be used is guided by the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations. The broad approach to the significance rating methodology is to determine the environmental risk (ER) by considering the consequence (C) of each impact (comprising Nature, Extent, Duration, Magnitude, and Reversibility) and relate this to the probability/likelihood (P) of the impact occurring. This determines the environmental risk. In addition, other factors, including cumulative impacts, public concern, and potential for irreplaceable loss of resources, are used to determine a prioritisation factor (PF) which is applied to the ER to determine the overall significance (S).</p>
<b>Consideration of alternatives. Describe how alternatives, and in particular the alternatives to the proposed site layout and possible alternative methods or technology to be applied will be determined.</b>	<p>The identification and assessment of alternatives is a key component to the success of any EIA process. Essentially, alternatives represent different means of meeting the general purpose and need of the proposed project through the identification of the most appropriate method of development. Two levels of alternative screening will be investigated and considered which culminate into the identification of the feasible development alternative. The first level alternatives include land use, location, mining method, etc. These alternatives will determine the optimal placement and process for the proposed mining operation. After these viable alternatives have been assessed (if any), the level two alternatives; including technology, phasing and site layout alternatives will be considered in order to ensure the best practicable option is proposed for the activity.</p> <p>Several alternative options for deposition were identified and assessed as part of the feasibility study. The applicant conducted screening of all the available TSFs in the West Wits Region for the possibility of extending the areas or increasing the heights thereof, as well as deposition on old TSF areas. It was concluded that to increase the height of the Savuka 7a &amp; 7b TSFs have the least environmental and economical impacts. The reasons for this include that the TSF would not require additional infrastructure and</p>



	<p>therefore no clearance of vegetation would be required. The resultant increase in negative impacts on the biophysical and socio-economic environment are considered to be negligible and outweighed by the positive attributes of the site. Therefore, based on the project description, the one viable alternative has been identified for the Savuka 7a &amp; 7b TSFs, and therefore the location/property alternatives are not applicable to this project. Input from various stakeholders will be obtained during the Public Participation Process and the alternative options considered will further be discussed in the BA Report.</p>
<p><b>Process to assess and rank impacts. Describe the process to be undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts and risks each individual activity.</b></p>	<p><u>Method of Assessing Impacts:</u></p> <p>The impact assessment methodology is guided by the requirements of the NEMA EIA Regulations. The broad approach to the significance rating methodology is to determine the <u>environmental risk (ER)</u> by considering the <u>consequence (C)</u> of each impact (comprising Nature, Extent, Duration, Magnitude, and Reversibility) and relate this to the <u>probability/likelihood (P)</u> of the impact occurring. This determines the environmental risk. In addition, other factors, including cumulative impacts, public concern, and potential for irreplaceable loss of resources, are used to determine a <u>prioritisation factor (PF)</u> which is applied to the ER to determine the overall <u>significance (S)</u>.</p> <p><u>Determination of Environmental Risk:</u></p> <p>The significance (S) of an impact is determined by applying a prioritisation factor (PF) to the environmental risk (ER).</p> <p>The environmental risk is dependent on the consequence (C) of the particular impact and the probability (P) of the impact occurring. Consequence is determined through the consideration of the Nature (N), Extent (E), Duration (D), Magnitude (M), and reversibility (R) applicable to the specific impact.</p> <p>For the purpose of this methodology the consequence of the impact is represented by:</p> $C = \frac{(E+D+M+R)}{4} \times N$ <p>Each individual aspect in the determination of the consequence is represented by a rating scale as defined in Table 1.</p>

**TABLE 1: CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING IMPACT CONSEQUENCE**

Aspect	Score	Definition
Nature	- 1	Likely to result in a negative/ detrimental impact
	+1	Likely to result in a positive/ beneficial impact
Extent	1	Activity (i.e. limited to the area applicable to the specific activity)
	2	Site (i.e. within the development property boundary),
	3	Local (i.e. the area within 5 km of the site),
	4	Regional (i.e. extends between 5 and 50 km from the site)
	5	Provincial / National (i.e. extends beyond 50 km from the site)
Duration	1	Immediate (<1 year)
	2	Short term (1-5 years),
	3	Medium term (6-15 years),
	4	Long term (the impact will cease after the operational life span of the project),
	5	Permanent (no mitigation measure of natural process will reduce the impact after construction).
Magnitude/ Intensity	1	Minor (where the impact affects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and social functions and processes are not affected),
	2	Low (where the impact affects the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and social functions and processes are slightly affected),
	3	Moderate (where the affected environment is altered but natural, cultural and social functions and processes continue albeit in a modified way),
	4	High (where natural, cultural or social functions or processes are altered to the extent that it will temporarily cease), or
	5	Very high / don't know (where natural, cultural or social functions or processes are altered to the extent that it will permanently cease).
Reversibility	1	Impact is reversible without any time and cost.

	2	Impact is reversible without incurring significant time and cost.
	3	Impact is reversible only by incurring significant time and cost.
	4	Impact is reversible only by incurring prohibitively high time and cost.
	5	Irreversible Impact

Once the C has been determined the ER is determined in accordance with the standard risk assessment relationship by multiplying the C and the P (refer to). Probability is rated/scored as per Table 2.

**Table 2: Probability Scoring**

Probability	1	Improbable (the possibility of the impact materialising is very low as a result of design, historic experience, or implementation of adequate corrective actions; <25%),
	2	Low probability (there is a possibility that the impact will occur; >25% and <50%),
	3	Medium probability (the impact may occur; >50% and <75%),
	4	High probability (it is most likely that the impact will occur- > 75% probability), or
	5	Definite (the impact will occur),

The result is a qualitative representation of relative ER associated with the impact. ER is therefore calculated as follows:

**ER= C x P**

**Table 3: Determination of Environmental Risk**

Consequence	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5

		1	2	3	4	5
	Probability					

The outcome of the environmental risk assessment will result in a range of scores, ranging from 1 through to 25. These ER scores are then grouped into respective classes as described in Table 4.

#### Table 4: Significance Classes

Environmental Risk Score	
Value	Description
< 9	Low (i.e. where this impact is unlikely to be a significant environmental risk),
≥9; <17	Medium (i.e. where the impact could have a significant environmental risk),
≥ 17	High (i.e. where the impact will have a significant environmental risk).

The impact ER will be determined for each impact without relevant management and mitigation measures (pre-mitigation), as well as post implementation of relevant management and mitigation measures (post-mitigation). This allows for a prediction in the degree to which the impact can be managed/mitigated.

Impact Prioritisation:

Further to the assessment criteria presented above it is necessary to assess each potentially significant impact in terms of:

- Cumulative impacts; and
- The degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources.

In addition, it is important that the public opinion and sentiment regarding the development and consequent potential impacts is considered in the decision-making process. In an effort to ensure that these factors are considered, an impact prioritisation factor (PF) will be applied to each impact ER (post-mitigation). This prioritisation factor does not aim to detract from the risk ratings but rather to focus the attention of the decision-making authority on the higher priority/significance

issues and impacts. The PF will be applied to the ER score based on the assumption that relevant suggested management/mitigation measures are implemented.

**Table 5: Criteria for Determining Prioritisation**

Public response (PR)	Low (1)	Issue not raised in public response.
	Medium (2)	Issue has received a meaningful and justifiable public response.
	High (3)	Issue has received an intense meaningful and justifiable public response.
Cumulative Impact (CI)	Low (1)	Considering the potential incremental, interactive, sequential, and synergistic cumulative impacts, it is unlikely that the impact will result in spatial and temporal cumulative change.
	Medium (2)	Considering the potential incremental, interactive, sequential, and synergistic cumulative impacts, it is probable that the impact will result in spatial and temporal cumulative change.
	High (3)	Considering the potential incremental, interactive, sequential, and synergistic cumulative impacts, it is highly probable/definite that the impact will result in spatial and temporal cumulative change.
Irreplaceable loss of resources (LR)	Low (1)	Where the impact is unlikely to result in irreplaceable loss of resources.
	Medium (2)	Where the impact may result in the irreplaceable loss (cannot be replaced or substituted) of resources but the value (services and/or functions) of these resources is limited.
	High (3)	Where the impact may result in the irreplaceable loss of resources of high value (services and/or functions).

The value for the final impact priority is represented as a single consolidated priority, determined as the sum of each individual criteria represented in **Table 5**. The impact priority is therefore determined as follows:

$$\text{Priority} = \text{PR} + \text{CI} + \text{LR}$$

The result is a priority score which ranges from 3 to 9 and a consequent PF ranging from 1 to 2 (Refer to Table 6).

**Table 6: Determination of Prioritisation Factor**

Priority	Ranking	Prioritisation Factor
3	Low	1
4	Medium	1.17
5	Medium	1.33
6	Medium	1.5
7	Medium	1.67
8	Medium	1.83
9	High	2

In order to determine the final impact significance, the PF is multiplied by the ER of the post mitigation scoring. The ultimate aim of the PF is to be able to increase the post mitigation environmental risk rating by a full ranking class, if all the priority attributes are high (i.e. if an impact comes out with a medium environmental risk after the conventional impact rating, but there is significant cumulative impact potential, significant public response, and significant potential for irreplaceable loss of resources, then the net result would be to upscale the impact to a high significance).

**Table 7: Final Environmental Significance Rating**

Environmental Significance Rating	
Value	Description
≤ -17	High negative (i.e. where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area).
> -17 ≤ -9	Medium negative (i.e. where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area).
> -9	Low negative (i.e. where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area).
0	No impact
<9	Low positive (i.e. where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area).
≥ 9 < 17	Medium positive (i.e. where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area).
≥ 17	High positive (i.e. where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area).

<p><b>Contribution of specialist reports</b> Describe how specialist reports, if required, will be taken into consideration and inform the impact identification, assessment and remediation process.</p>	<p>Several EIA-phase specialist studies will be undertaken to address the key issues. The specialist studies involve the gathering of data relevant to identifying and assessing environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed project. These impacts were then assessed according to pre-defined rating scales. Specialists also recommend appropriate mitigation / control or optimisation measures to minimise potential negative impacts or enhance potential benefits, respectively. The following specialist studies are being conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Impact Assessment;</li> <li>• Air Quality Assessment;</li> <li>• Groundwater Assessment;</li> <li>• Health Risk and Radiological Impact Assessment;</li> <li>• Aquatics and Wetland Assessment;</li> <li>• Hydrology Impact Assessment; and</li> <li>• Closure and Rehabilitation Plan.</li> </ul> <p>All specialists are required to adhere to the the EAPs method of assessing impacts, as detailed above. The specialist studies will inform the EIA phase assessment (EIAR/EMPr) with input into the sensitivity mapping. The specialists will also be required to comply with the National and/or Provincial protocols.</p> <p>It is crucial to note that the Sensitivity Mapping is to be used as a first level mechanism to provide guidance (where viable) regarding design and layout and identify operational alternatives for further assessment. In addition, the mapping exercise allows the identification of certain spatial characteristics which may not be compatible or desirable for the purpose of infrastructure placement as well as (where possible) circumnavigating potential fatal flaws.</p>
<p><b>Determination of impact management objectives and outcomes.</b> Describe how impact management objectives will be determined for each activity to address the potential impact at source, and how the impact management outcomes will be aligned with standards.</p>	<p>The objectives of the impact management measures shall be to firstly anticipate and avoid risks and impacts. This shall be accomplished through the adoption of a risk and impact assessment process which aims to identify all relevant environmental and social risks and receptors that are likely to be affected by such risks and impacts, including the issues identified by I&amp;AP's during the consultation process. The impact and risk identification process shall take into consideration each activity and its associated potential impacts. The impact management objectives will be incorporated into and EMPr. The EMPr developed for the project shall include mechanisms whereby social and environmental risk and impacts shall be avoided and mitigated. The objectives of this environmental management framework shall be:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To anticipate potential risks and impacts associated with each activity pre-emptively through the implementation of risk assessment techniques and early warning systems such as environmental monitoring and inspections;</li> <li>• To develop and implement preventative measures to ensure known risks and impacts are addressed at source wherever possible (e.g. spill prevention procedures);</li> <li>• To implement detailed management measures to ensure that where avoidance of impacts is not possible, mitigation measures are in place to minimize impacts to workers, affected landowners/occupiers/communities, and the environment; and</li> <li>• To provide a framework for adaptive environmental management within the EMPr whereby impacts from unplanned events or incidents caused by the project may be effectively controlled to minimise impacts to workers, affected landowners/occupiers/communities, and the environment.</li> </ul> <p>The management and mitigation measures shall be developed in accordance with applicable standards and guidelines, which may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislated Standards (e.g.: air quality guidelines and standards);</li> <li>• South African National Standards (SANS) (e.g.: SANS water quality standards);</li> <li>• Where Applicable, International Standards and Guidelines;</li> <li>• Applicable National and Regional Frameworks (e.g.: Bioregional Plans; Spatial Development Frameworks, National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus Areas, Environmental Management Frameworks, etc.);</li> <li>• Applicable Guidelines developed by authorities (e.g.: DMRE guidelines, NEMA EIA guidelines); and</li> <li>• Other Applicable guidelines (e.g.: Mining and Biodiversity Guidelines).</li> </ul> <p>To ensure that the impact management outcomes can be monitored, and performance evaluated, performance targets and indicators shall be developed where appropriate. Compliance and alignment with the prescribed standards shall be measures against the defined Performance Targets and Indicators through the implementation of a system of inspections and compliance monitoring as defined in the EMPr.</p>
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## 8. OTHER AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED

LEGISLATION	Mark with an X where applicable			
	AUTHORISATION REQUIRED		APPLICATION SUBMITTED	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
SEMA's				



National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act		X		X
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act		X		X
National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act		X		X
National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act		X		X
National Environmental Management: Waste Act	X		X	
<b>National legislation</b>				
Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act	X			X
National Water Act	X			X
National Heritage Resources Act		X		x
Others: Please specify		X		X

Please provide proof of submission of applications in Appendix 5<sup>1</sup>.

In the event that an authorization in terms of the National Environmental Waste Management Act is required for any of the activities applied for please state so clearly in order for such an authorisation to be considered as part of this application.

*Please take note that the applicability of the following Acts listed below will be confirmed during the EIA Phase of the project:*

- *National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (particularly relating to permit applications for the removal/relocation of potential protected species identified on site); and*
- *National Heritage Resources Act (particularly relating to potential heritage features and archaeological finds).*

*Should it be found that any listed activities within these Acts will be triggered; the necessary permit and license application process will be followed at a reasonable time in accordance with the regulations. As far as possible, the intended outcome of the EIA and EMP is to prevent the impacts relating to the above-mentioned legislation.*

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<sup>1</sup> All applications are captured by this application. Applications to DWS to be completed once final EIA report is ready for submission.

## 9. DRAFT EMPR

For consultation purposes, provide a high-level approach to the management of the potential environmental impacts of each of the activities applied for.

ACTIVITIES  (E.g. For prospecting - drill site, site camp, ablution facility, accommodation, equipment storage, sample storage, site office, access route etc...etc...etc E.g. for mining,- excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc...etc.)	PHASE  (of operation in which activity will take place).  State; Planning and design, Pre-Construction' Construction, Operational, Rehabilitation, Closure, Post closure.	SIZE AND SCALE <sup>2</sup>  (of Disturbance)  (volumes, tonnages and hectares or m <sup>2</sup> )	TYPICAL MITIGATION MEASURES  (Eg, storm water control, dust control, noise control, access control, rehabilitation etc..., etc...,)	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS  (A description of how each of the recommendations herein will comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices that have been identified by Competent Authorities)
Tailings facility	Operation	Approximately 270 ha	Dust control, avoidance of sensitive areas, height control, contamination control measures, erosion control.	The typical mitigation measures recommended will comply with all prescribed environmental management standards and practices.

## 10. CLOSURE PLAN

In the space provided under each heading below, please provide a high-level description of the plan for closure and the information that will be provided in the draft EMPr accompanying the draft basic assessment report or environmental impact reports going forward.

<sup>2</sup> The size and scale of disturbance is a rough estimated at this stage. More accurate estimates will be provided during the EIA phase.

<p><b>Baseline environment</b></p> <p>Describe how the baseline environment will be determined with the input of interested and affected parties and due cognizance of the current land uses and or existing biophysical environment</p>	<p>The baseline environment will be assessed in one Phase: The Basic Impact Assessment phase, including the draft and final Basic Assessment Reports.</p> <p><b>Phase 1: Basic Impact Assessment Phase and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr):</b></p> <p>This will require a detailed desktop investigation by the EAP to familiarise themselves with the proposed application area and broadly determine the existing status quo of the receiving environment.</p> <p>During the BA phase of the project, a more detailed investigation will also be undertaken for the likely impacts. On completion of the BA level assessments, the EAP will begin compilation of the EMPr. The BA and EMPr will include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A detailed description of the receiving environment;</li> <li>• A description of the Public Participation Process methodology;</li> <li>• A record of the findings of the Public Participation Process;</li> <li>• An Basic Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) during all project phases;</li> <li>• An Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) during all project phases;</li> <li>• Closure and Rehabilitation Plans;</li> <li>• Calculation of the Financial Provisions;</li> <li>• A detailed description of the need and desirability of the proposed activity including advantages and disadvantages that the activity will have to the environment and community;</li> <li>• A description of the methodology used in determining significance of identified impacts;</li> <li>• A description and comparative assessment of all alternatives identified;</li> <li>• A summary of the findings and recommendations of any Specialist Studies;</li> <li>• A description of all identified impacts and an assessment of the significance of each impact before and after implementation of proposed mitigation measures;</li> <li>• A description of assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge;</li> <li>• A recommendation as to whether the activity should be authorised and under what conditions;</li> <li>• An Environmental Impact Statement including key findings;</li> <li>• A draft Environmental Management Programme; and</li> <li>• Copies of any and all specialist studies carried out.</li> </ul> <p>Each identified impact will be assessed for significance by investigating and ranking the nature, duration, extent, magnitude and probability of each impact. In addition to this the reversibility and the potential for irreplaceable loss of resources will also be assessed. In accordance with the requirements of the EIA regulations a Draft Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) will also be prepared.</p>
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	<p>Following submission of the BA, Specialist Studies and Draft EMPr to the registered I&amp;APs for review and comment, the final submission will be made to the DMRE.</p> <p><b>Public Participation Process:</b></p> <p>The Public Participation Process (PPP) will be robust and continue to engage interested and affected parties (IAPs) throughout all phases of the project. As a result of the public notifications, a register will be opened and maintained which will record all contact details of persons whom have submitted written comments or responded to the notification and who have requested that they be registered as IAPs. All registered IAPs will be informed of the required process of involvement as defined by the EIA regulations. All objections and representations received from IAPs will be collected and considered in this application. Responses will be prepared and distributed to those IAPs who submitted comments and/or objections. These comments /objections and responses will be recorded in an Comments and Responses Report (CRR) for inclusion into the Draft and Final BA Reports respectively. In addition, the registered IAPs will be given an opportunity to comment on all reports prepared to be submitted to the DMRE.</p>
<p><b>Closure objectives</b></p> <p>Describe the closure objectives and the extent to which they will be aligned to the baseline environment</p>	<p>The EMPr shall include a closure and rehabilitation plan. The plan shall outline the closure objectives which are aimed at reinstating the landform, land use and vegetation units to an agreed land use or similar.</p> <p>Rehabilitate the land which was impacted by the activity and the related infrastructure to meet the closure objectives;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove all infrastructure built in relation to the mining operations which will not be used by the landowners or a third party. Should it happen that the third party may want to use the infrastructure, appropriate arrangements should be made to ensure long term sustainable use of the infrastructure;</li> <li>• Follow a process of closure that is progressive and integrated into the short and longterm plans;</li> <li>• Assess the closure impacts proactively at regular intervals throughout project life;</li> <li>• Implement progressive rehabilitation measures, beginning during the construction phase wherever possible;</li> <li>• Monitor and manage water on site to minimise soil, surface/groundwater contamination;</li> <li>• Comply with national closure and rehabilitation regulatory requirements;</li> <li>• Form active partnerships with local communities to take management of the land after the project has ceased, where possible; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and monitor all rehabilitated areas following re-vegetation. If monitoring shows that the objectives have been met, an application for closure can be made.</li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation Plan</b> Describe the scale and aerial extent of the prospecting or mining listed activities to be authorised, including the anticipated prospecting or mining area at the time of closure, and confirm that a site rehabilitation plan drawn to a suitable scale will be provided in the draft EMPr to be submitted together with the draft EIR or Basic Assessment Report as the case may be.	A rehabilitation plan will be drawn to a suitable scale and provided in the BAR.
<b>Rehabilitation Cost</b> Describe how the rehabilitation cost will be determined and provide a preliminary estimate thereof	The rehabilitation cost will be calculated in detail with input from the various specialists assigned to the project and will be subject to annual review. Furthermore, the rehabilitation cost will also be based on implementation of the management measures to be included in the EMPr and revised accordingly for inclusion into the BA. Rehabilitation costs will be calculated according to the DMRE rates.
<b>Decommissioning</b> Considering that rehabilitation must take place upon cessation of an activity, describe when each of activities applied for will be rehabilitated in terms of either the cessation of the individual	Decommissioning and closure will be described in detail in the EMPr.

activity or the cessation of the overall prospecting/exploration or mining/production activity.	
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Signature of the applicant / Signature on behalf of the applicant:

**Golden Core Trade and Invest (Pty) Ltd. - Mponeng Operations**

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Name of company (if applicable):

24/02/2025

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Date:

**APPENDIX 1A**  
**DECLARATION OF THE EAP**

I, Monica Niehof, declare that –

General declaration:

- I act as the independent environmental practitioner in this application
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in regulation 8 of the Regulations when preparing the application and any report relating to the application;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- I will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
- I will ensure that the comments of all interested and affected parties are considered and recorded in reports that are submitted to the competent authority in respect of the application, provided that comments that are made by interested and affected parties in respect of a final report that will be submitted to the competent authority may be attached to the report without further amendment to the report;
- I will keep a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in a public participation process; and
- I will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;
- will perform all other obligations as expected from an environmental assessment practitioner in terms of the Regulations; and



- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 71 of the Regulations and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.

**Disclosure of Vested Interest**

- I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Regulations;



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Signature of the environmental assessment practitioner:

**Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd**

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Name of company:

10 April 2025

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Date: