



NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER FOR BIODIVERSITY MAPPING AND UPDATE OF THE NKANGALA DISTRICT BIOREGIONAL PLAN FOR THE 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

SCOPE OF WORK

1.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bid is to appoint a Service Provider for Biodiversity Mapping and Update of the Nkangala District Bioregional Plan for the 2025/2026 Financial Year

2. BACKGROUND

Nkangala District Municipality (NDM), situated in Mpumalanga Province, encompasses a landscape of ecological significance interwoven with intensive mining, industrial, and urban development. These competing land uses exert growing pressure on the district's biodiversity, ecosystems, and the essential services they provide to communities.

To guide sustainable development and environmental management, the Bioregional Plan serves as a critical spatial planning tool. It facilitates the integration of biodiversity priorities into land-use planning, environmental governance, and municipal decision-making. The Bioregional plan is developed in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) and guided by the 2009 Bioregional Planning Guidelines (Notice 291 of Government Gazette No. 32006).

The current Nkangala Bioregional Plan requires updating to reflect the latest ecological data, land cover changes, climate risks, and biodiversity trends. An updated Bioregional Plan will strengthen the municipality's ability to make informed decisions that balance development needs with long-term ecological sustainability, resilience, and compliance with national and provincial biodiversity frameworks.

3. PROJECT AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the project is to update the Bioregional Plan for Nkangala District Municipality to ensure compliance with SANBI's Bioregional Planning Guidelines and NEMBA 2009 Notice 291, and to support mainstreaming of biodiversity in the municipal spatial development and land-use management processes.

The objectives are:



- Review existing bioregional and biodiversity datasets applicable to Nkangala.
- Conduct spatial biodiversity assessments using best available scientific and GIS data.
- Map Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), Ecological Support Areas (ESAs), and identify ecosystem services and climate change considerations.
- Engage relevant stakeholders and obtain inputs from provincial and national biodiversity entities.
- Ensure alignment with provincial biodiversity sector plans, IDPs, SDFs, and environmental frameworks.
- Produce a council-ready Bioregional Plan and gazette-ready submission package.

4. SCOPE OF WORK

The service provider is expected to:

- Compile an inception report detailing methodology, data sources, and consultation schedule.
- Conduct a literature review and data validation for existing ecological and spatial information.
- Identify gaps and update land cover, biodiversity features, and ecological corridors.
- Undertake spatial mapping and analysis using GIS and national datasets.
- Convene stakeholder engagements and municipal consultations.
- Align deliverables with NEMBA 2009 Bioregional Planning Guidelines.
- Draft, consult, and finalise the Bioregional Plan, including:
 - Spatial biodiversity maps (CBA, ESA)
 - Technical report and summary maps
 - Gazette-ready package
 - Council submission support

5. DELIVERABLES

Deliverable	Description	Verifiable Indicator	Means of Verification
Inception Report	Detailed methodology, timeline, and project framework	Approved Inception Report	Signed approval from NDM Project Manager
Baseline Assessment	Comprehensive review of biodiversity data, spatial features, and gap analysis	Status Quo Report	Technical report validated by NDM and stakeholder comments
GIS Mapping Products	Spatial layers and maps for CBA, ESA, and ecosystem services	Digital map products and shapefiles	Submission of GIS data and printed map outputs
Draft Bioregional Plan	Draft document aligned to NEMBA and SANBI guidelines	Reviewed draft shared with stakeholders	Draft report and stakeholder inputs summary
Stakeholder Engagement Report	Summary of all consultations and input processes	Engagement log and attendance registers	Stakeholder report signed off by NDM
Final Bioregional Plan	Finalised council-ready and gazette-ready documents	Endorsed final plan and gazette pack	Council resolution and gazette submission



package

6. EXPERTISE REQUIRED

- Lead consultant with a postgraduate qualification in Environmental Science, Ecology, or GIS.
- Demonstrated experience in biodiversity planning, spatial analysis, and stakeholder facilitation.
- Technical team must include GIS specialists, ecologists, and land-use planners.

7. PROJECT DURATION

The total duration for the completion of the Biodiversity Mapping and Update of the Nkangala District Bioregional Plan is six (6) months from the date of formal appointment. The appointed service provider will be required to adhere to the project timeline as approved in the inception phase and submit progress reports at regular intervals.

Time Schedule and Reporting Structure:

Month	Activity / Milestone	Deliverable	Reporting Format
Month 1	Project initiation and inception	Approved Inception Report	Written report and presentation to NDM
Month 2	Literature review, baseline assessment, and data validation	Baseline Status Quo Report	Technical report submission
Month 2	Spatial mapping and stakeholder scoping	Preliminary GIS maps and engagement plan	Shapefiles, draft maps, engagement matrix
Month 3	Draft Bioregional Plan development	Draft Bioregional Plan and maps	Draft report and map compilation
Month 4	Stakeholder engagements and public participation	Engagement Report	Attendance registers, summary of inputs
Month 6	Finalisation and submission of council-ready and gazette-ready Bioregional Plan	Final Plan and Gazette Package	Final report, maps, and submission letter

The service provider will be expected to submit monthly progress reports to the NDM Project Manager and participate in monthly Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings for oversight, quality control, and stakeholder alignment.

8. BUDGET

The Service Provider shall present his cost breakdown aligned to the deliverables in the Bill of Quantities.

9. PROJECT GOVERNANCE



The project will be overseen by the Divisional Manager: Biodiversity and Climate Change, reporting to the General Manager: Community Development Services. A project steering committee will guide the process, including representation from DARDLEA, SANBI, DEFF, local municipalities, and other stakeholders.

9. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)
- NEMBA Bioregional Planning Guidelines, 2009 (Notice 291 of Government Gazette No. 32006)
- SANBI Bioregional Planning Toolkit
- Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan
- Relevant municipal SDFs and IDPs