

THE KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPALITY (KSDM) PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION PROJECT

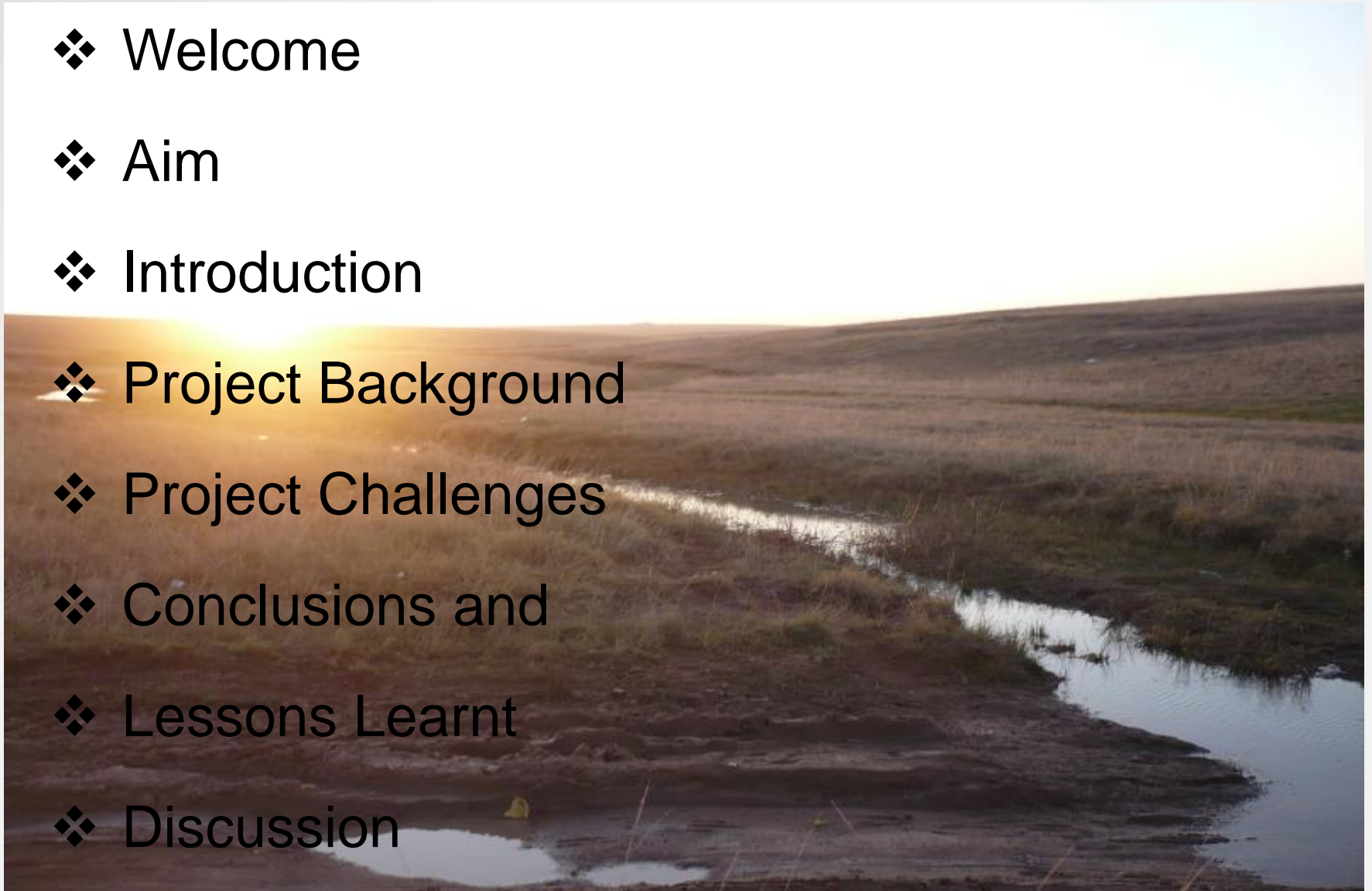


LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF MULTIPLE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONERS (EAPS) ON A
LARGE SCALE BULK INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

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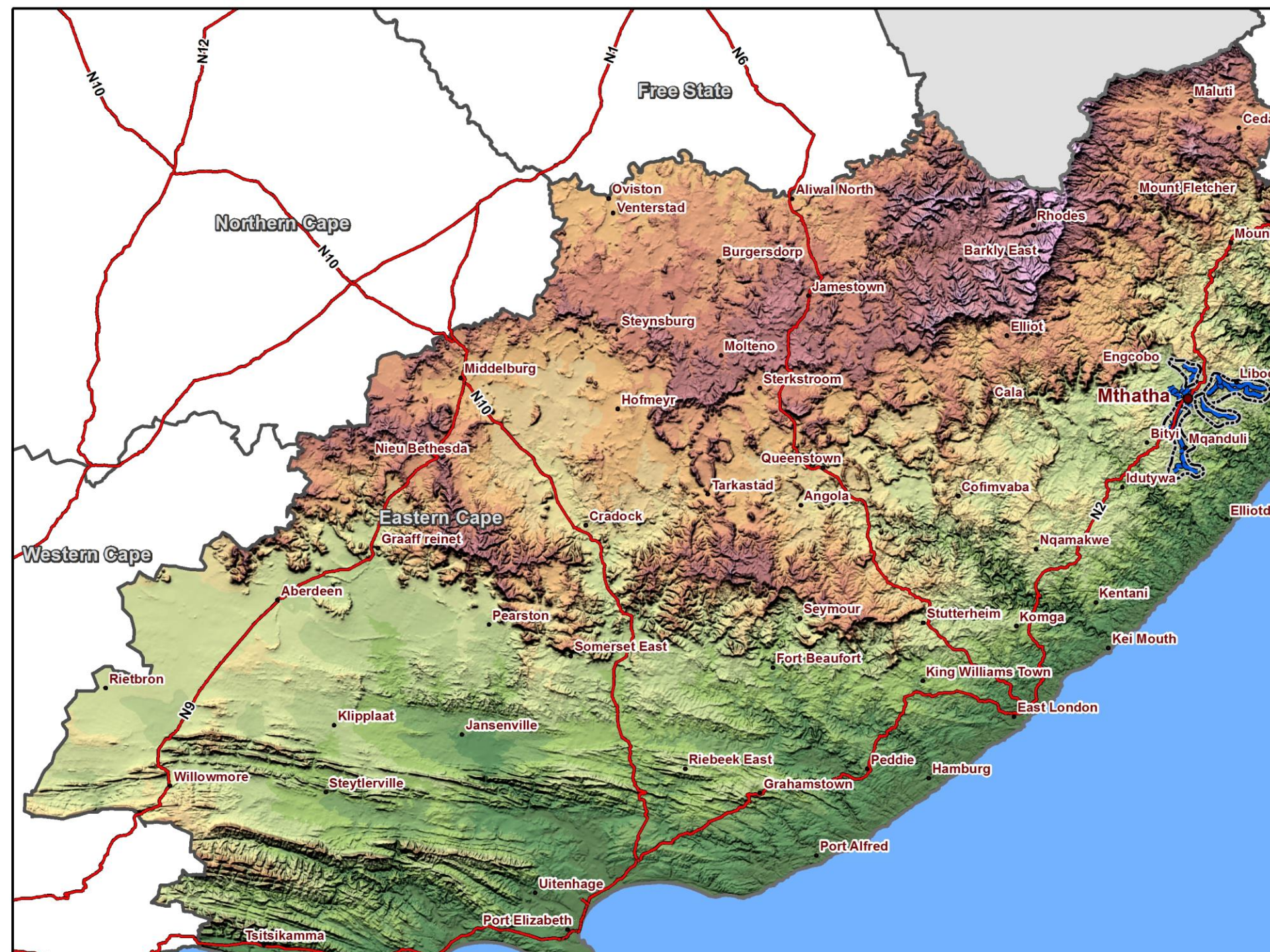




The aim of the presentation is to **share the lessons learnt from managing different EAPs with the view to enhance the quality of environmental deliverables**



**The King Sabata Dalindyebo
Municipality (KSDM) Presidential
Intervention Project** was launched in
2009 with the declaration of Mthatha as a
**Rapid High Impact Presidential
Intervention Node** to help refurbish
rundown infrastructure in and around
Mthatha





The intervention was intended to address **infrastructure backlogs and service delivery challenges** and fully revitalise Mthatha through projects such as the **Mthatha airport, roads, water, sanitation and electricity projects**

PROJECT BACKGROUND



As part of this Programme, GIBB (Pty) Ltd were appointed as the **consulting engineers** to prepare the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality (KSDM) **Bulk Water Conveyance Masterplan** for the **upgrading** of the **bulk water supply network** in and around the City of Mthatha, as well as to villages surrounding Mthatha

This Masterplan forms part of the **Strategic Infrastructure Projects** identified within the **2011 National Development Plan** and falls under the **SIP 18 Water and Sanitation Masterplan**



The complete **KSDM Bulk Water Conveyance Masterplan** comprises of the following phased activities:

- ❖ The upgrading of **reticulation** links to the “**Breaking New Ground**” areas in and around Mthatha
- ❖ The upgrading of the **delivery system** of raw water from the **Mthatha Dam** to the **Thornhill Water Treatment Works**

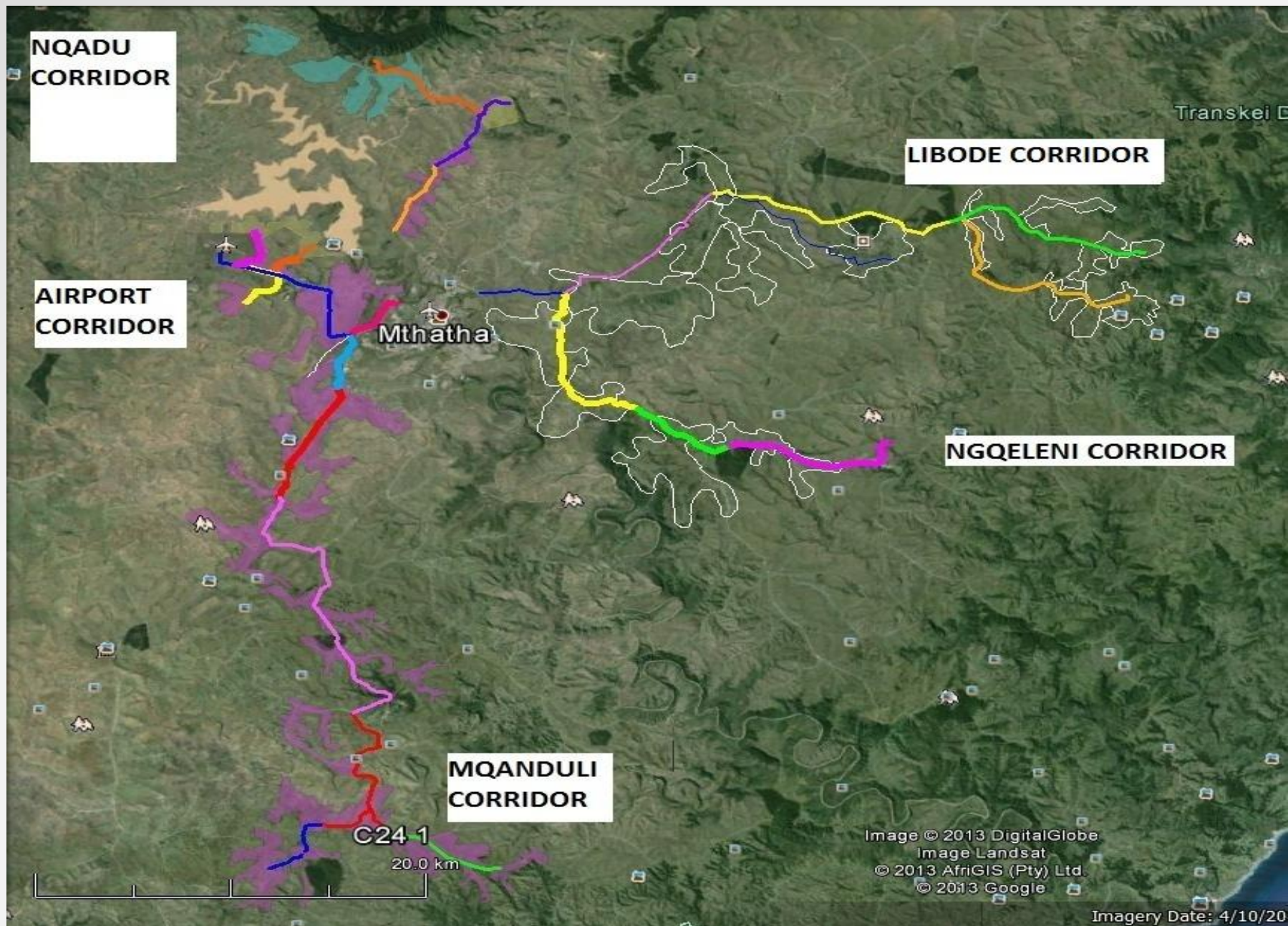


- ❖ The **extension** in capacity of the **Thornhill Waterworks**
- ❖ The **upgrading** of the **clear water pumping capacity** from the Thornhill waterworks to Mthatha town and the southern and eastern surrounding areas
- ❖ The **construction** of a new **25 MI/d Rosedale waterworks**



❖ The **construction** of a new **bulk water supply system** including **rising** and **gravity mains** as well as **reservoirs** in order to transfer the clear water pumped out of the Thornhill and Rosedale Waterworks to the extended areas of supply within the following 5 corridors:

- ☐ Mqanduli Corridor
- ☐ Ngqeleni Corridor
- ☐ Libode Corridor
- ☐ Nqadu Corridor)
- ☐ Airport Corridor



PROJECT BACKGROUND



GIBB's role also including **oversight** on the **environmental authorisations** required for the various infrastructure development and upgrade activities

GIBB Environmental has a dedicated **Technical Peer Reviewer** responsible for management of these types of projects

PROJECT BACKGROUND



The implementation of the new bulk water supply system including rising and gravity mains as well as reservoirs **triggered listed activities** in accordance with the schedules of activities identified in terms of **Sections 24 and 24 (d) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA)** and the **NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (revised 2010)**

This in turn required the appointment of **Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs)** to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment process and applications for **Environmental Authorisation**

PROJECT BACKGROUND



GIBB accordingly appointed four EAPs to undertake the work with the **Technical Peer Review Unit** of the **Environmental Services Division** managing the EAPs

The project further triggered **Water Uses** in terms of **Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36, of 1998)**

This necessitated the lodging of applications for **Water Use Licenses** with the **Department of Water Affairs** in order to obtain the necessary water license prior to the commencement of the proposed activities



During the process GIBB and the EAPs faced a number of **challenges** related to the **applications**

Apart from the pressure placed on implementation due to the proposed development forming part of the **Presidential Intervention Project** various characteristics of the **biophysical** and **social environments** imposed additional difficulties on the process for example:

- ❖ The **corridors** are located within a **rural** part of the **Eastern Cape Province** with much of the land being **tribally owned** which had implications for the **public participation process**

PROJECT CHALLENGES



- ❖ A number of **rural villages** are located within the corridors
- ❖ Areas of **sensitive floral species** are located with the corridors
- ❖ **Eighty-six watercourse crossings** were identified and **fifty-nine wetlands** were observed within 500 or just over 500 meters of the proposed bulk water infrastructure
- ❖ **Heritage resources** such as **gravesites** are abundant in the area



Additional challenges posed by the nature of the project and in particular by the appointment of **four separate EAPs** to manage the applications included:

- ❖ Managing **priority sections** of the corridors
- ❖ **Disseminating information** from the engineering teams to the EAPs and vice versa as well as from the specialist team to both the engineering team and EAPs



- ❖ Maintaining a **holistic** and **integrated approach** to **public participation** in order to facilitate **public involvement**
- ❖ Liaison with the **competent** and **commenting authorities** and facilitation the **integration** of the **NEMA** and **NWA processes**.

PROJECT CHALLENGES – the rural landscape



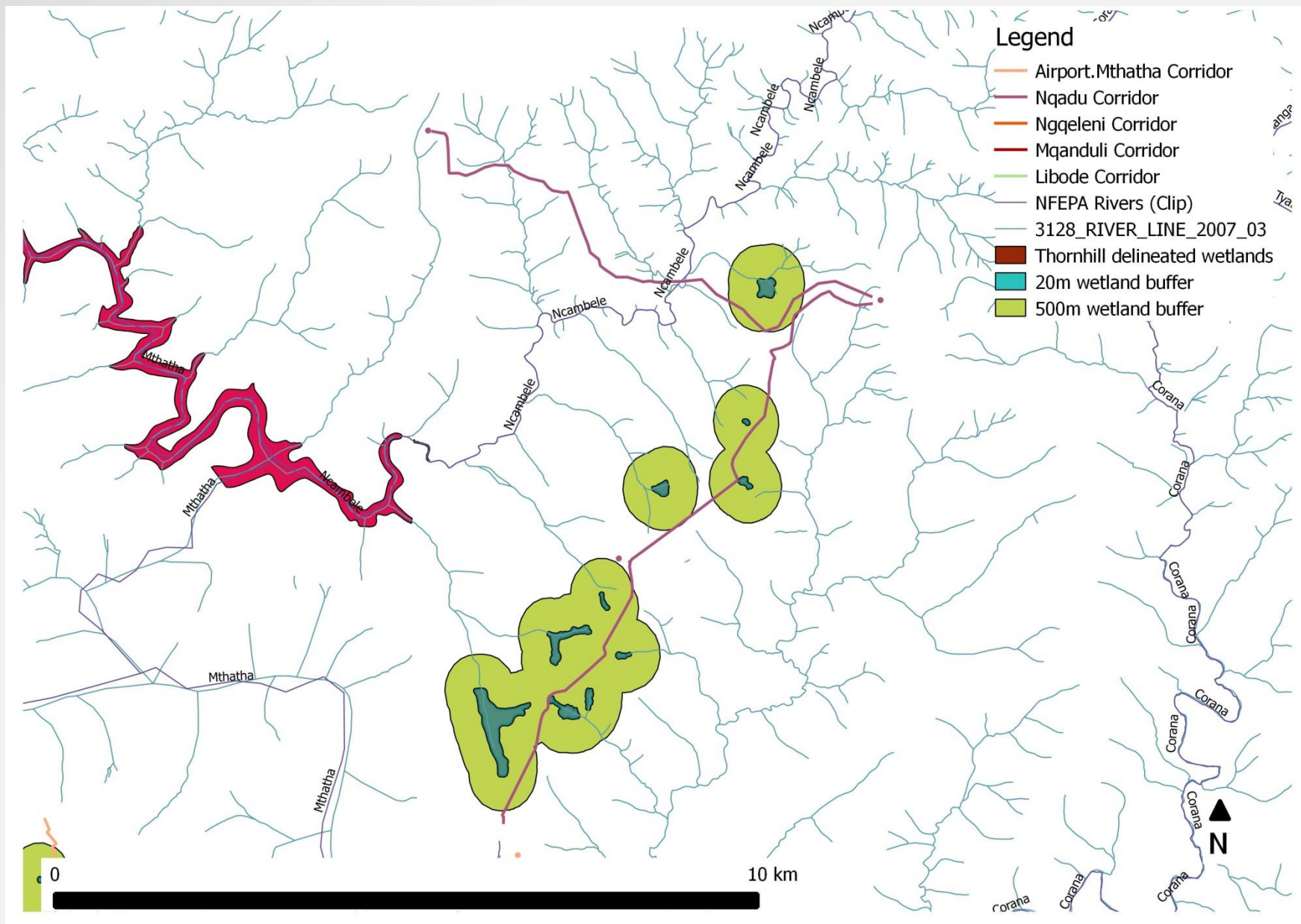
PROJECT CHALLENGES – sensitive floral species and wetlands



Gladiolus ecklonii



Gladiolus woodii



PROJECT CHALLENGES – *heritage resources*



CONCLUSION AND LESSONS LEARNT



The Summary of the **South African National Infrastructure Plan (2012)** prepared by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission rightly states that:

“18 years into our democracy, there are still major challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality” and historically “weak capacity, poor coordination and weak integration limit the development impact of infrastructure”



Whilst the **King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality (KSDM) Presidential Intervention project** aimed at addressing **infrastructure backlogs** and **service delivery** challenges within the context of the overarching goals of the **National Infrastructure Plan**, the implementation of the project was not without challenges

CONCLUSION AND LESSONS LEARNT



Lessons from the project show that projects of this nature not only **require careful coordination** between **multiple stakeholders** but also require **seamless support** from the various mandated **authorities** for implementation of these projects. The **centralised management** of the process in the context of these challenges thus become **crucial** to the **successful implementation** of the project



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