MUNICIPAL CONTEXT:
The four settlements are located in and around a medium-sized town which is a well-established rural service node and retail centre with a small manufacturing sector (saw mills, timber, furniture, steel products etc.). It is located along a major corridor (national road) and is situated 40km away from a major town (the second largest town in the province) which is a major business and industrial centre. There are insufficient primary and high schools in the town to cater for the growing informal settlement population. There is a well-established clinic but insufficient mobile clinics. There is a state hospital in the large town located 40km away.

SETTLEMENT 1:
- **Size:** 625 households
- **Locality:** Near the centre of the town
- **Social factors and history:** The community settled in the area after violence occurred in another area 15 years ago. The settlement is well-established.
- **Land ownership:** Partially owned by the municipality and partially by Transnet (part of the site used to be part of a railway loading area but the railway line is no longer operational and has been decommissioned). Land can be acquired by the Municipality. Land transfers from Transnet are already underway and Transnet have issued a letter confirming their willingness to make the land available.
- **Physical conditions:** The site is relatively flat with no obvious geotechnical or environmental constraints. It is considered suitable for permanent human settlement provided improvements can be made.
- **Housing:** Shacks are built mainly of wattle and daub with tin roofs. The settlement is medium to high density.
- **Infrastructure:** Water supply and electricity are located nearby as are bulk sewer lines. It is noted that the Municipality prefers to provide water borne sewerage where possible. There is access to a tar road on the edge of the settlement. There is informal road access to most parts of the settlement. There are only two standpipes and no VIPs on site. Residents make use of self-constructed pit latrines. There is electricity nearby but no electrical connections.
- **Social services:** See municipal context.
Key threats and vulnerabilities: There is no potable water on site. Winters are cold. Residents burn fires inside for cooking and heating. These factors cause respiratory infections which are common especially amongst children. Informal on site sanitation is inadequate contributing to people, especially children, suffering frequently from diarrhoea. There is limited solid waste removal and significant solid waste, which poses an additional health hazard.

SETTLEMENT 2:

- **Size:** 243 households
- **Locality:** Near the centre of the town
- **Social factors and history:** The community was established approximately 10 years ago. A significant number of migrants from other countries reside in the settlement. The settlement is reasonably well-established. Income levels in the settlement are very low. Most residents are unemployed and rely on informal activities and social grants.
- **Land ownership:** Owned by several private landowners, none of whom reside in the area. It is expected to take some time for land to be expropriated from the private landowners (who have to date been unwilling to engage with the municipality over selling their land due to significant rates arrears which they dispute and which now exceed the value of the underlying land).
- **Physical conditions:** The site is steeply sloping but is geotechnically stable. There are no obvious environmental constraints.
- **Housing:** Shacks are tin, plastic, cardboard and planks. The settlement is high density with limited informal road access only to the top part of the settlement and pedestrianised access to the rest of the settlement.
- **Infrastructure:** Water supply and electricity are located nearby. There is access to a tar road on the edge of the settlement. There is only pedestrianised access into the settlement. There no standpipes and no VIPs on site. Residents make use of self-constructed pit latrines. They access water from neighbouring residential and industrial sites. There is electricity nearby.
- **Social services:** See municipal context.
- **Key threats and vulnerabilities:** There is a high risk of shack fires in winter when it is cold and dry. Sanitation is very poor and water supply inadequate. There is a high incidence of diarrhoea and water borne disease especially amongst children. Winters are cold. Residents burn fires inside for cooking and heating. These factors cause resultant respiratory infections common especially amongst children. There is limited
solid waste removal and significant solid waste which poses an additional health hazard.

SETTLEMENT 3:

- **Size:** 453 households
- **Locality:** On the edge of town on farmland between sugar cane land and a river.
- **Social factors and history:** The community have gradually settled on the land over the past 5 years having come to the area from rural settlements seeking work opportunities. The settlement is characterised by high levels of poverty and unemployment.
- **Land ownership:** Owned by two commercial farmers.
- **Physical conditions:** The site is gently sloping but is located in a floodplain and close to a wetland. The soil is often waterlogged in the rainy season. As a result, the site is not considered developable or suitable for permanent human settlement. There is no relocations site (Greenfields project or TRA) currently available to which people can be moved.
- **Housing:** A mix of wattle and daub traditional structures and shacks built of tin and plastic. The settlement is medium density.
- **Infrastructure:** There are no standpipes or electricity. There is no road access. Residents have built their own pit latrines.
- **Social services:** See municipal context.
- **Key threats and vulnerabilities:** Informal on site sanitation is inadequate and there is no water supply to the site. As a result residents, especially children, suffer frequently from diarrhoea. Winters are cold. Residents burn fires inside for cooking and heating. These factors cause respiratory infections common especially amongst children. There are shack fires in the dry winter season. The soil is often waterlogged in the rainy season contributing to health problems. During heavy rains, the river floods and some shacks become flooded. Children crossing the river to get to school face the risk of drowning when water levels are high. There is no bridge. There is no solid waste removal and significant solid waste accumulates, which poses an additional health hazard.

SETTLEMENT 4:

- **Size:** 1542 households
- **Locality:** Near to the town on traditional land
• **Social factors and history:** The community has gradually been established over the past 25 years with densification occurring as urban influx occurs. Twenty five years ago, the area was a low density rural settlement, but this has now changed. There is a high level of sub-tenancy and shacklords, most of whom have resided in the area for more than 15 years. This will make rapid formalisation challenging as they are likely to oppose losing their source of livelihood. The settlement is very well-established. Income levels vary significantly.

• **Land ownership:** Traditional land.

• **Physical conditions:** Parts of the site are steeply sloping but the site is nonetheless geotechnically stable. There are no obvious environmental constraints. The site is considered suitable for permanent human settlement.

• **Housing:** A mix of well-established semi-formal housing (built of blocks with tin roofs and foundations) and wattle traditional structures. The settlement is medium to low density.

• **Infrastructure:** There are several standpipes but these are insufficient. Much of the area is electrified. There is a well-established informal road access to all parts of the settlement. There are some government-build VIPs in some parts of the settlement. In others, residents use owner-built pit latrines. The municipality intends at some stage to extend water borne sewerage to the area once the sewer treatment works in town have been upgraded. Gravel road infrastructure is in place. In the rainy season the main taxi routes become very muddy and difficult for taxis to gain access, especially in the steeper areas. Parts of the area have electrical connections, but only to about half of the settlement.

• **Social services:** See municipal context.

• **Key threats and vulnerabilities:** Sanitation and water supply are inadequate in some parts of the settlement.