SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR
MALELANE SAFARI LODGE
MPUMALALANGA PROVINCE
FEBRUARY 2015

Prepared for
NULEAF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL
By
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

NuLeaf Planning and Environmental was appointed by Malelane Safari Resort Investments (Pty) Ltd as the lead consultant to manage the Basic Assessment (BA) process for the establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge and associated infrastructure within the Kruger National Park. The site is located within the 'Peripheral Development Zone' (PDZ), as per the Kruger National Park’s Conservation Development Framework (CDF). The PDZ has a width of 2km from the Kruger National Park (KNP) boundary in this area. The zoning was approved by the Minister of Environmental Affairs in 2013 and allows for the development of tourist accommodation facilities of up to 240 beds.

The study area is located north east of the Malelane Gate on the western bank of the Crocodile River, adjacent to the confluence with the Timfenheni River.

Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting was appointed to undertake a specialist Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as part of the Basic Assessment (BA) process. This report contains the findings of the SIA for the BA process.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge consists of a 240 bed Safari Lodge with a four star rating in the Malelane Region of the Kruger National Park. In terms of the Private Public Partnership (PPP) agreement with SANParks the developers will build, operate and maintain the resort for 30 years. The proposed lodge will be aimed at providing a more affordable full service, lodge-type accommodation, compared to the existing up-market lodges in the area. The lodge also provides an alternative to the existing self-catering accommodation currently available in the Kruger Park. Attracting more middle-class local visitors is one of SANParks’ three focus market areas for the Kruger National Park. The main activities to be provided by the safari lodge include the following:

- Accommodation in tented units (120);
- Main lodge;
- Conference venue;
- Family Centre;
- Wellness Centre;
- Environmental Education Centre and
- Riverside meander, river footbridge and catering deck.

In addition, the proposed development includes the establishment of a ‘Park-and-Ride’ facility located next to the Malelane Gate (adjacent to the existing staff housing). The Park and Ride facility will provide 24 hour access to the site via a shuttle service and will be developed as a partnership between the proposed lodge and the Kruger National Park. The Park-and-Ride concept is one that has been adopted at other gates in the southern region of the Kruger Park as part of a SANParks strategy to cater for the increased demand for day visitor access to the Kruger at peak periods, such as, long weekends and public holidays. The Park & Ride and Welcome Centre for the proposed Lodge at Malelane Gate will, therefore, be operated in partnership with the Kruger Park during these peak periods. The decision to permit 24 hour access to the Malelane Safari
Lodge was taken prior to the issuing of the tender process and is incorporated in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Agreement that the developer signed with SANParks.

The estimated cost of the project will be in the region of R 283 million. The construction phase will extend over a period of 12-18 months and create ~ 130 employment opportunities. The operational phase will create ~ 280 permanent employment opportunities linked to the lodge and the management of the area.

The stakeholders in the project include the South African National Parks, the neighbouring community in the form of a Trust funded by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Public Investment Company (PIC), local BEE partners, Carlson Rezidor Hotels (Radisson), the Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries, and two local private enterprises (Secprop Leisure and Cradle of Man).

**APPROACH TO THE STUDY**

The approach to the SIA study is based on the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment (February 2007). These guidelines are based on international best practice.

The key activities in the SIA process embodied in the guidelines include:

- Review of socio-economic data for the area;
- Review of relevant planning and policy frameworks for the area;
- Site specific information collected during the site visit to the area and interviews with key stakeholders;
- Review of information from similar projects; and
- Identification of social issues associated with the proposed project.

**SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS**

The key findings of the study are summarised under the following sections:

- **Fit with policy and planning**;
- **Construction phase impacts**;
- **Operational phase impacts**;
- **Cumulative Impacts**;
- **Decommissioning phase impacts**;
- **No-development option**.

**Fit with planning**

The focus of the review was on the key planning documentation pertaining to the Kruger National Park. In this regard the following policy and planning documents were reviewed, namely:

- Kruger National Park Management Plan;
- Kruger National Park Zonation Plan; and
- Revised Kruger Park Zonation Plan.

The IDPs for the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and Nkomasi Local Municipality were also reviewed in order to identify the key socio-economic challenges and opportunities in the study area and the relevance of these to the proposed development.
The findings of the review indicate that the Kruger National Park Revised Zonation Plan was approved by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs on 26 June 2013. The Revised Zonation Plan provides for the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The development opportunities associated with the PDZ include accommodation facilities such as lodges. The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is located within the PDZ and is therefore compatible with the land uses permitted within the PDZ.

**Construction phase**

The key social issues associated with the construction phase are the following:

**Potential positive impacts**

- Creation of employment and business opportunities;

The construction phase for the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is expected to extend over a period of 12-18 months and create approximately 130 employment opportunities during peak construction of which approximately 70% (91) will be available to low skilled workers (construction labourers, security staff etc.), 20% (26) for semi-skilled workers (drivers, equipment operators etc.) and 10% (13) for skilled personnel (engineers, land surveyors, project managers etc.).

Members from the local communities are likely to be in a position to qualify for the majority of the low skilled and semi-skilled employment opportunities. The majority of these employment opportunities are also likely to accrue to Historically Disadvantaged (HD) members from the local community. Given high local unemployment levels and limited job opportunities in the area, this will represent a significant, if localised, social benefit for the Nkomazi Local Municipality. However, in the absence of specific commitments from the developer to maximise local employment targets the potential opportunities for local employment will be limited. In addition, the low education and skills levels in the area may also hamper potential opportunities for local communities. Due to the short duration of the construction phase (12-18 months) the potential for implementing an effective training and skills development programme are likely to be limited.

The wage bill for the construction phase is estimated to be in the region of R 22 million (2014 rand value). A percentage of the total wage bill will be spent in the local economy which will create opportunities for local businesses in Malelane and Mbombela.

The capital expenditure, including wages, associated with the construction and establishment of the proposed lodge will be in the region of R 283 million (2014 rand value) (Secprop, 2015). In terms of business opportunities for local companies, expenditure during the construction phase will create business opportunities for the regional and local economy. The sector of the local economy that is most likely to benefit from the proposed development is the local building industry and service sector.

The potential opportunities for the building sector would be linked to the supply of building materials for the construction phase. The benefits for the local service sector would be linked to accommodation, catering, cleaning, transport and security, etc. associated with the construction workers employed during the construction phase. The implementation of the proposed enhancement measures would also enable the establishment of the proposed lodge to support co-operation between the public and private sectors, which would support local economic development in the NLM.
**Potential negative impacts**

- Impacts associated with the presence of construction workers on local communities;
- Increased risk of poaching associated with presence of construction workers on the site;
- Increased risk of grass fires associated with construction related activities;
- Noise, dust and safety impacts of construction related activities and vehicles.

The significance of the potential negative impacts with mitigation was assessed to be of Low significance. The majority of the potential negative impacts can, therefore, be effectively mitigated if the recommended mitigation measures are implemented. In addition, given that the majority of the low and semi-skilled construction workers can be sourced from the local area the potential risk to local family structures and social networks is regarded as low. However, the impact on individuals who are directly impacted on by construction workers (i.e. contract HIV/ AIDS) was assessed to be of Medium-High negative significance.

Table 1 summarises the significance of the impacts associated with the construction phase.

**Table 1: Summary of social impacts during construction phase**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Significance No Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>Significance With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creation of employment and business opportunities</td>
<td>Low (Positive impact)</td>
<td>Medium (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of construction workers and potential impacts on family structures and social networks</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact for community as a whole) Medium-High (Negative impact of individuals)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact for community as a whole) Medium-High (Negative impact of individuals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased risk of poaching associated with presence of construction workers on the site</td>
<td>Medium (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased risk of grass fires</td>
<td>Medium (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of heavy vehicles and construction activities</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Operational phase**

The following key social issues are of relevance to the operational phase:

**Potential positive impacts:**

- Creation of employment and business opportunities. The operational phase will also create opportunities for skills development and training;
- Creation of opportunities for local SMMEs;
- Benefits associated with the establishment of a Community Trust;
- The establishment of a new tourism destination in the Kruger National Park.
Creation of employment and business opportunities
The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge will create in the region of 250-280 permanent employment opportunities during the operational phase. Of this total, approximately 80% of the opportunities will be low and semi-skilled positions. The majority of employment opportunities are likely to benefit HD members of the community. An additional 20 seasonal employment opportunities will also be created during peak holiday periods, such as long weekends and school holidays.

It will also be possible to increase the number of local employment opportunities through the implementation of a skills development and training programme linked to the operational phase. Such a programme would support the strategic goals of promoting local employment and skills development contained in the NLM IDP.

Creation of opportunities for local SMMEs
The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge will create a number of potential opportunities for local individuals and SMMEs. In this regard the proposed lodge will create opportunities for the local service sector in Malalane. The key sectors likely to benefit from the development include food and beverage suppliers, cleaning and maintenance companies, security companies, and transport companies.

The lodge will also create opportunities for local community members involved in arts and crafts. These opportunities will be linked to the opportunity to sell local arts and crafts to visitors staying at the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. This will support the efforts of the SANParks to create opportunities for local communities living in the vicinity of the Kruger National Park to benefit from the activities that take place in the park.

Benefits associated with the establishment of Community Trust
A Community Trust, The Cradle of Malelane Hotel Employees and Community Trust, will be established as required in terms of the PPP agreement with SANParks. The success of the trust will be dependent upon the financial success of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. Based on the information provided by Secprop, they and SANParks are confident that the proposed development will be financially successful. This is based on market research undertaken by SANParks, Secprop Leisure and Carlson Rezidor.

Establishment of a new tourist destination in the Kruger National Park
A number of individuals and organisations are opposed to the establishment of hotels in the Kruger National Park, such as Against Interference in Kruger Our Nature Asset (AIKONA) and Africa Wild. However, the Kruger National Park Revised Zonation Plan was approved by Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs on 26 June 2013. The Revised Zonation Plan makes provision for the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The PDZ allows for the development of accommodation facilities such as the proposed lodge. The establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is, therefore, in keeping with the policy of SANParks for the Kruger National Park.

The establishment of a new tourism destination in the Kruger National Park will increase the number of beds in the Park. The proposed development will also provide an alternative to the existing accommodation options available in the park, thereby appealing to a different sector of the market. The involvement of the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group as the operators also provides the development with an international hotel operator with an established track record. The involvement of Carlson Rezidor Hotel...
Group is also likely to create opportunities to market the lodge overseas. This in turn will benefit tourism in South Africa, the Kruger National Park and the local area.

**Potential negative impacts**
- Impact on existing tourism operators;
- Impacts associated with the Park and Ride and 24 access to the Kruger National Park;
- Impact on adjacent land uses and activities.

**Impact on existing tourist operations**
The existing tourist operations that stand to be most affected by the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge include the Pestana Kruger Lodge, which is located on the south bank of the Crocodile River adjacent to the Malalane Bridge, Jocks Safari Lodge and the Lukimbi Safari Lodge. The key concerns raised by the manager of the Pestana Lodge is that the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge will, by virtue of its location within the Kruger National Park, provide an attractive alternative for visitors who would have traditionally stayed at the Pestana Lodge. The potential impact is likely to be exacerbated by the 24 hour access associated with the Park and Ride. The conference and wellness facilities will also compete with the Pestana Lodge. The impact on the Pestana Lodge would in turn result in job losses.

While the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge does have the potential to impact on the Pestana Lodge, within a free market economy developers have the right to establish facilities that provide competition and create choices for consumers. Likewise, the owners of the Pestana Lodge have the right to reduce their rates or offer special discounts that would potentially impact on the Malelane Safari Lodge. In terms of assessing the potential impact, there are a number of other variables that are unrelated to the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge that could also impact on the Pestana Lodge, including the state of the global and South African economy, the interest and rand exchange rate, crime levels in South Africa and political changes. The assessment of the proposed impact of the Malelane Safari Lodge on the Pestana Lodge and, for that matter other tourism operations in the area, is therefore unlikely to be definitive. In this regard other tourism operators in the area interviewed indicated that the establishment of a four star hotel in the Kruger National Park near the Malalane Gate would attract more visitors to the area, which would in turn benefit the local economy.

In the case of the Jock Safari and Lukimbi Lodges, the market they cater for is more exclusive and discerning. The patrons who can afford to pay the rates charged by the Jock Safari and Lukimbi Lodge are paying for the exclusiveness associated with these small luxury lodges. These patrons are unlikely to want to stay at a 240 bed facility, such as the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. The impact on these establishments is therefore likely to be limited.

**Impact of 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park**
The Park and Ride concept is one that has been adopted at other gates in the southern region of the Kruger Park as part of a SANParks strategy to cater for the increased demand for day visitor access to the Kruger at peak periods such as long weekends and public holidays. However, none of the existing Park and Ride operations provide 24 hour access. The decision to permit 24 hour access to the Malelane Safari Lodge was taken prior to the issuing of the tender process and is incorporated in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Agreement that the developer signed with SANParks.

A number of concerns were raised regarding the proposed Park and Ride facility, specifically the provision for 24 hour access. These include:
• Establishment of a precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park;
• Increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching in the Kruger National Park;
• Noise and light impacts for residents of the Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate;
• Increased risk of road kills due to increased vehicle traffic at night.

The findings of the SIA indicate that the establishment of 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park for the Malelane Safari Lodge will largely benefit the Malelane Safari Lodge. However, the costs or impacts will be borne by the Pestana Lodge and residents of Leopard Creek Golf Estate. The establishment of 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park also has the potential to increase the risk of poaching in the Kruger National Park and may create a precedent for existing and future facilities in the park, including SANPark facilities and private lodges. The establishment of 24 hour access also has the potential to result in negative cumulative impacts. In order to address these potential impacts a number of mitigation measures are recommended.

The establishment of the Park and Ride facility also creates an opportunity to address traffic congestion and delays at the Malalane Gate. These delays not only impact on visitors accessing the Kruger National Park, but also on guests and residents of the Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate respectively. It is recommended that SANParks consider using the Park and Ride facility to address the congestion problems that develop at the Malalane Gate.

The significance of the impacts associated with the operational phase are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of social impacts during operational phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Significance No Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>Significance With Mitigation/Enhancement / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creation of employment and business opportunities</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
<td>High (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of opportunities for local SMMEs</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits associated with the establishment of a Community Trust</td>
<td>Low (Positive impact)</td>
<td>Medium (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of new tourism destination in the Kruger National Park</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on existing tourism operators</td>
<td>Low (Negative or Positive impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative or Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts associated with 24 access to the Kruger National Park</td>
<td>High (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on adjacent land uses and activities</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cumulative Impacts

The Revised Zonation Plan makes provision for the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The development opportunities associated with the PDZ include the development of accommodation facilities such as the proposed lodge. The establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is therefore in keeping with the policy of SANParks for the Kruger National Park. The cumulative impact of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge on the wilderness and remote sense of place associated with the Kruger National Park is therefore likely to be limited.

However, provision of 24 hour access for the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge has the potential to create a president to allow 24 hour access for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park. This will increase the cumulative risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching. The increase in traffic on the roads within the Kruger National Park after closing hours will also have a cumulative impact on the night time wilderness character of the area and on road kills. SANParks has indicated that 24 hour access will be limited to the Malelane Safari Lodge and will not be extended to current concessions in the Kruger National Park.

The significance of the cumulative impact of providing 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park is rated as Low Negative with mitigation.

Decommissioning phase

If and when the lodge is closed, the typical social impacts associated with the decommissioning phase are linked to the loss of jobs and associated income. This has implications for the households who are directly affected, the communities within which they live, and the relevant local authorities. Given the number of people employed during the operational phase (~250-280), the social impacts at a community level associated with decommissioning will need to be carefully managed. However, experience has shown that the potential impacts associated with the decommissioning phase can be effectively managed with the implementation of a retrenchment and downscaling programme. With mitigation, the impacts were assessed to be Low Negative.

No-Development Option

The No-Development option would result in a lost opportunity to create employment and business opportunities during both the construction and operational phase of the proposed development. In addition, as indicated above, the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is located with the PDZ and is therefore in keeping with the policy of SANParks for the Kruger National Park. However, the provision for 24 hour access is not supported.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the SIA indicate that the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is located with the PDZ and is, therefore, in keeping with the policy of SANParks for the Kruger National Park. The development will create employment and business opportunities for locals during both the construction and operational phase of the project. The significance of this impact for the operational phase is rated as High Positive. The proposed development also creates an opportunity to establish a new tourist destination within the Kruger National Park.
The proposed development has the potential to impact on a number of existing tourist operations, specifically the Pestana Kruger Lodge, Jocks Safari Lodge and the Lukimbi Safari Lodge. However, the operation of these and other tourism establishment in the area are dependent upon a number of economic factors, such as the state of the global economy and the rand exchange rate. An assessment of the proposed impact of the Malelane Safari Lodge on the tourism operations in the area is therefore unlikely to be definitive.

The establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is therefore supported.

However, the provision for 24 hour access has the potential to result in a number of potential negative social impacts. These include:

- Establishment of a precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park;
- Increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching in the Kruger National Park;
- Noise and light impacts for residents of the Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate.

In order to reduce the potential risks and impacts associated with the proposed 24 hour access the following mitigation measures are recommended:

**Precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park**
- SANParks should adhere to its commitment that 24 hour access will be limited to the Malelane Safari Lodge and will not be extended to current concessions in the Kruger National Park.

**Increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching**
- Shuttles used to transfer guest to hotel from the Park and Ride facility must be fitted with GPS units to monitor routes and times;
- The registration number and name of the driver and passengers of all cars entering the Kruger National Park after normal operating hours must be recorded;
- Only guests with confirmed bookings at the Melelane Sarfari Lodge should be permitted to access the Kruger National Park after normal park hours.

**Noise and light impacts**
- Only guests with confirmed bookings at the Malelane Sarfari Lodge should be permitted to access the Kruger National Park after normal park hours;
- Bookings must have been made during normal park hours on the day of arrival at the latest. Guests who attempt to book after normal park hours on the proposed day of arrival should be informed that they will not be able to access the Kruger National Park. This will reduce the risk of guests taking advantage of the 24 hour access facility provided for the hotel;
- As recommended by SANParks, access should be limited up until 22h00. Guests should be informed of this when booking;
- Access after 22h00 should only be permitted in the case of emergencies;
- Non-guests attending functions (conferences etc.) at the hotel should be required to leave the Kruger National Park by 22h00. This will assit to mitigate the noise and light impacts associated with cars leaving the Kruger National Park and crossing the Malalane Bridge after normal park hours;
- No access to the lodge after normal park hours should be provided via the S114. After hour access to the lodge should be confined to the H3 –S121 route. This will avoid light and noise impacts associated with shuttles for residents of Leopard Creek.
Shuttles used to transfer guest to hotel from the Park and Ride facility must be fitted with GPS units to monitor routes and times;

- The gate on the southern side of the Malalane Bridge should continue to be operated according to existing park hours. The gate should be automated and up-graded to include the installation of an intercom system linked to the lodge and the Park and Ride facility. Once the details of the guest/s have been confirmed the gate can be opened automatically to allow guests to drive over the Malalane Bridge and access the Park and Ride. This will prevent non-guests from accessing the bridge after normal park hours;
- No music (car radios etc.) should be permitted at the Park and Ride facility.

**IMPACT STATEMENT**

The findings of the SIA undertaken for the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge indicates that the development will create employment and business opportunities for locals during both the construction and operational phase. It is, therefore, recommended that the lodge be supported, subject to the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures contained in the report, specifically relating to the management of the 24 hour access associated with the Park and Ride facility.
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## ACRONYMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEA&amp;DP</td>
<td>Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (Western Cape)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEA</td>
<td>Department of Environmental Affairs (National)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>District Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD</td>
<td>Historically Disadvantaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIA</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDM</td>
<td>Ehlanzeni District Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Integrated Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNP</td>
<td>Kruger National Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>KNPMP</td>
<td>Kruger National Park Management Plan</td>
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<td>LM</td>
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<td>PDZ</td>
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<td>NLM</td>
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<td>SDF</td>
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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

NuLeaf Planning and Environmental was appointed by Malelane Safari Resort Investment (Pty) Ltd as the lead consultant to manage the Basic Assessment (BA) process for the establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge and associated infrastructure within the Kruger National Park. The site is located within the ‘Peripheral Development Zone’ (PDZ), as per the Kruger National Park’s Conservation Development Framework (CDF). The PDZ has a width of 2km from the Kruger National Park (KNP) boundary in this area. The zoning was approved by the Minister of Environmental Affairs in 2013 and allows for the development of tourist accommodation facilities of up to 240 beds.

The study area is located north east of the Malalane Gate on the western bank of the Crocodile River, adjacent to the confluence with the Timfeneni River (Figure 1.1).

Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting was appointed to undertake a specialist Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as part of the BA process. This report contains the findings of the SIA for the EIA process.

Figure 1.1: Location of proposed Malelane Safari Lodge
1.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the SIA require:

- A description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the environment may be affected by the proposed facility;
- A description and assessment of the potential social issues associated with the proposed facility;
- Identification of enhancement and mitigation aimed at maximising opportunities and avoiding and/or reducing negative impacts.

1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge consists of a 240 bed Safari Lodge with a four star rating in the Malalane Region of the Kruger National Park. Figure 1.2 provides an indication of the proposed layout. In terms of the Private Public Partnership (PPP) agreement with SANParks the developers will build, operate and maintain the resort for 30 years. The proposed lodge will be aimed at providing a more affordable full service, lodge-type accommodation, compared to the existing up-market lodges. The lodge also provides an alternative to the existing self-catering accommodation currently available in the Kruger Park. Attracting more middle-class local visitors is one of SANParks’ three focus market areas for the Kruger National Park.

The main activities to be provided by the safari lodge include the following:

- Accommodation in tented units (120);
- Main lodge;
- Conference venue;
- Family Centre;
- Wellness Centre;
- Environmental Education Centre and
- Riverside meander, river footbridge and catering deck.

In addition, the proposed development includes the establishment of a ‘Park and Ride’ facility located next to the Malalane Gate (south west of the existing staff housing) (Figure 1.3). The Park and Ride facility will provide 24 hour access to the site via a shuttle service and will be developed as a partnership between the proposed lodge and the Kruger National Park.

The Park and Ride concept is one that has been adopted at other gates in the southern region of the Kruger Park as part of a SANParks strategy to cater for the increased demand for day visitor access to the Kruger at peak periods such as long weekends and public holidays. The Park & Ride and Welcome Centre for the proposed Lodge at Malalane Gate will therefore be operated in partnership with the Kruger Park during these peak periods. The decision to permit 24 hour access to the Malelane Safari Lodge was taken prior to the issuing of the tender process and is incorporated in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Agreement that the developer signed with SANParks.

In addition to the above, a 3km stretch of the S114, which currently runs through the lodge site, will be realigned to the west.
The estimated cost of the project will be in the region of R 283 million. The construction phase will extend over a period of 12-18 months and create ~ 130 employment opportunities. The operational phase will create ~ 280 permanent employment opportunities linked to the lodge and the management of the area.

The stakeholders in the project include the South African National Parks, the neighbouring community in the form of a Trust funded by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Public Investment Company (PIC), local BEE partners, Carlson Rezidor Hotels (Raddisson), the Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries, and two local private enterprises (Secprop Leisure and Cradle of Man).

Figure 1.2: Layout of proposed Malelane Safari Lodge
Figure 1.3: Layout of proposed Park and Ride adjacent to Malalane Gate

1.4 SITE DESCRIPTION AND SURROUNDING LAND USES

The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge site is located within the Kruger National Park on the western bank of the Crocodile River ~ 10 km north west of the Malalane Gate (Photograph 1.1).
The site is located on the southern banks of the Timfenheni River, which flows into the Crocodile River (Photograph 1.2 and 1.3). Access to the site can be achieved via the H3 and S114 and S121 (Referred to as the Timfenheni Loop). The land uses in the vicinity of the site include the Kruger National Park (on the western bank of the Crocodile River) and sugar cane plantations and the Leopard Creek Golf Estate to the east and south east respectively. Sugar cane farming and the Leopard Creek Golf Estate are discussed in more detail below. The town of Malalane (Malelane) is located ~ 20 km south west of the site.
Photograph 1.2: Timfenheni River crossing of S114 looking north

Photograph 1.3: View from the site looking west from intersection between S114 and S121
The Kruger National Park (KNP) was formally declared a National Park on 10 December 1926, although portions had already enjoyed conservation status for considerably longer. The KNP is one of the world’s most popular public entry game parks and receives in excess of one million visitors per year. In terms of facilities, the park offers a variety of tourist accommodation options and currently has 12 main rest camps, five bushveld camps, two bush lodges and four satellite camps, which, in total, provide ~ 4 100 beds (depending on maintenance, upgrades and various other circumstances) (Kruger National Park Management Plan, 2008). The Park’s commercialisation strategy has also resulted in the establishment of seven luxury lodges that have been granted 20 year concessions.

Malalane is a farming town located in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa situated on the N4 national highway. The town started as the first rest-stop between Lourenço Marques and Pretoria and was proclaimed in 1949. In July 2007 the town’s name was changed from "Malelane" to "Malalane". The Malalane area has a long history of human habitation that predates the establishment of the town itself. This includes the ancient ochre mining site at Dumaneni located just south of the Malalane Gate. Kruger historians, JJ Kloppers and Hans Bornman, believe that over 100 000 tons of red ochre were mined at Dumaneni between 46 000 and 28 000 years ago. The San appeared to have been the first miners, using ochre for artistic and medicinal purposes. Iron-Age smelters found at Dumaneni also indicate that mining took place during the Iron Age, which began in southern Africa approximately 2000 years ago (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malalane).

Malalane was also the site of an established river crossing, and takes its name from the Malelane Regiment of King Mswati II of Swaziland, which was stationed in the area in the 1850s when the area was under Swazi control. King Mswati’s regiments conducted regular forays into present-day Kruger during the mid-19th century. Many of the names in southern Kruger are Swazi in origin, while Shangaan names dominate further to the north.

In more recent times the area was known as The Kruger Shooting Concession. In 1942 the government of the Transvaal commissioned a road through the area for military use. The establishment of the road resulted in an increase of traffic through the area. However, the benefit to the local economy was limited as the majority of the traffic was en-route to Lourenço Marques (now Maputo). In 1926 the area was proclaimed as part of the Kruger National Park and a barbwire fence was erected. However, the fence did not prevent the movement of larger game, such as buffalo and elephant, in and out of the park. In 1963 the fence was upgraded to meet international standards and to address the spread of foot and mouth in the park. This reduced the movement of larger game in and out of the park and enabled farming operations in the area, specifically along the Crocodile River, to expand. The foot and mouth fence was upgraded and electrified in 1965 and became known as the Snyman fence.

The key land uses in the area are linked to agriculture and tourism. Sugarcane farming is one of the oldest and the most important agricultural activity in the immediate vicinity of Malalane and the proposed site (Photograph 1.4). The Transvaal Suiker Beperkings (TSB) sugar mill was commissioned in 1967 near the Malalane entrance of the Kruger National Park (Photograph 1.5). The Malalane sugar mill is located ~ 8 km from the site as the crow flies.
Photograph 1.4: Sugarcane plantations in the Malalane area

Photograph 1.5: TSB Malalane sugar mill
TSB currently owns and operates three sugar mills, namely the Malalane, Komati and Pongola sugar mills. The Malalane Mill is located adjacent to TSB's Head Office and has undergone several capacity expansions since it was commissioned in 1967. The current nominal capacity stands at 1.83 million tons of cane in a 38 week crushing season. The refinery processes both raw sugar produced at the Malalane Mill, as well as, raw sugar from the Komati Mill. The current refinery output is approximately 355 000 tons per annum. The packaging plant packs both refined and direct consumption brown sugars in a wide variety of pack sizes for the retail and industrial markets. The Malalane mill also has extensive warehousing facilities from which the sugar can be despatched by road and rail. The mills, including the Malalane Mill, are supplied with cane grown by commercial and small growers and from TSB managed cane land. In this regard TSB currently supports approximately 1 800 commercial and small-scale growers who supply 80% of the sugar cane to its factories from 55 000 hectares of irrigated land.

The original military road was upgraded on a number of occasions, which improved access to the area and the Kruger Park. In 1994, with the election of a democratic South African government, the governments of South African and neighbour Mozambique conceptualised the development of a corridor between Pretoria in Gauteng and Maputo in Mozambique, and to re-establish trade links between the two countries. Called the Maputo Development Corridor Initiative, the aim was to develop the N4 route to facilitate trade and investment in the region and provide access to global markets through the Port of Maputo. In December 1996 TRAC, comprising a partnership between the French construction multinational Bouygues, and South African construction companies Basil Read and Stocks & Stocks, was appointed the preferred bidder for the 30-year concession to build, operate and maintain the N4 toll road. The initial construction work lasted three-and-a-half years (http://www.tracn4.co.za/about-trac/history.html). With the development of the N4 Toll Road the status of the Malalane Gate was up-graded to a main entrance to the Kruger National Park. This resulted in an increase in tourism in the area and the subsequent development of a number of lodges and bed and breakfast operations. The largest of these were the Malelane Sun and Pestana Lodge. The Malelane Sun burnt down in 2007 and has not been redeveloped. The land on which the lodge was located now forms part of the Leopard Creek Golf Estate.

The Leopard Creek Golf Club and housing estate was developed by Johan Rupert in 1996 and has provided a major boost to the local economy. The development consists of an international standard 18-hole golf course designed by Gary Player and ~ 250 residential units of which ~ 104 have been developed to date (Photograph 1.6). Based on comments from the estate manager, Mr Tobie Kloppers, the intention is to limit the development to ~ 110 units so as to ensure that houses on the estate are not visible from the golf course.
The estate employs ~ 130 staff, including ~ 20 contract security staff. The majority of the homeowners also employ gardening, cleaning and maintenance staff. On average ~ 500 workers are employed on the estate on a daily basis (Muggeridge pers. com, January 2015). The Leopard Creek Golf Course also hosts the annual Alfred Dunhill Championship which is a co-sanction event between the European and Sunshine Tour. The first tournament on the course was held in 2005. Based on the comments from the representatives from Leopard Creek and the local tourism operators, the event provides Malalane with a major boost over a four-three week period in December. The benefits are not only linked to players and spectators, but also to the television and support crews associated with the event. Representatives from Leopard Creek indicated that there was insufficient accommodation in Malalane and the surrounding areas and that people had to be accommodated in Nelspruit. A shuttle service is provided for visitors and participants based in Nelspruit (Muggeridge pers. com, January 2015).

The majority of the lodges on the Leopard Creek estate are located along the banks of the Crocodile River and extend for a distance to ~ 8 km, starting near the Malalane Bridge in the west and ending near the adjacent sugar cane plantations in the east (Photograph 1.7).

Cars travelling along sections of the S114 within the Kruger Park, which provides access to the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge, are visible from some of the residences located along the Crocodile River (Photograph 1.8 and 1.9). Sections of the road are also visible from the Golf Course Club House (Photograph 1.10).
Photograph 1.7: View from Malalane Bridge looking north-west with houses in Leopard Creek Estate located on the right

Photograph 1.8: View from S114 within Kruger Park of houses in Leopard Creek Estate located in the northern section of the estate
Photograph 1.9: View from S114 within Kruger Park of Leopard Creek Golf Course clubhouse

Photograph 1.10: View from S114 within Kruger Park of houses in Leopard Creek Estate located in the western section of the estate near the Malalane Bridge
The Pestana Kruger Lodge is located on the eastern bank of the Crocodile River adjacent to the Melalane Bridge (Photograph 1.11). The Lodge is located within 300 m of the Malalane Gate, which is the most important entrance to the southern section of the Kruger Park. The Malalane Gate is also one of the Kruger's busiest gates and there are often long queues of cars waiting to get into the Park at weekends and during school holidays. Due to its location, Pestana Lodge provides visitors with views over the Crocodile River and the game associated with the river, including hippo, elephant and crocodiles (Photograph 1.12). The lodge has a total of 74 rooms with views over the river or the gardens. The rooms consist of Standard (32), Family (30), Deluxe (10) and Suites (2) with a total capacity of 182 guests. The Deluxe rooms have views over the Crocodile River towards the Kruger Park. The lodge also has a restaurant, the Buhlebethu Restaurant, which also has views over the Crocodile River. The Eshonalanga Bar includes a viewing deck that enables guest to enjoy sundowners while they view game that come down to the Crocodile River to drink (1.13). In terms of employment, the lodge creates employment for 94 people. This includes 54 permanent staff and 6 casual staff. Housekeeping (18 staff), Security (8), Grounds (6) and Laundry (2) is outsourced.

Photograph 1.11: View of Pestana Lodge from Malalane Bridge looking west
Photograph 1.12: View of elephants from Pestana Lodge

Photograph 1.13: View from Pestana Lodge viewing deck towards Malalane Bridge
The Pestana Kruger Lodge also has conference facilities and caters for weddings and similar activities. The conference area consists of 4 conference rooms, the largest of which can accommodate up to 150 delegates. In addition, the lodge has a health spa—th e Thulani Health Spa—which is equipped with a hydro bath, steam room, relaxation area and a double treatment suite which leads out onto its own private treatment garden. Given its location adjacent to the Kruger Park and the Malalane Gate, the lodge also provides open vehicle safari’s into the Kruger Park for its guests (Pestana Lodge http://www.savenues.com/visit/pestanakrugerlodge/).

Two private five star luxury lodges are also located within the KNP, in the vicinity of the proposed Malelane Safari Resort, namely the Lukimbi Lodge and Jock Safari Lodge. The Lukimbi Safari Lodge is located adjacent to the Lwakahle River, approximately 18 km north east of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge site. The lodge consists of 16 luxury suites with private decks and river views. Access to the lodge is via the H3 and S 114, which also provides access to the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. Access can also be gained via the H3 and S118. The Jock Safari Lodge is located on the southern bank of the Biyamiti River and consists of 12 luxury suites (Photograph 1.14). The lodge is located ~ 25 km north of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. Access the lodge is via the H3.

Both lodge’s offers guests guided walking tours and bush drives within the associated concession areas. The Jock Safari Lodge employs ~ 55 permanent staff, of which 14 live on site. The remaining 41 staff members work two shifts and are transported to and from the lodge on a daily basis from Malalane. The evening shift is required to exit the Kruger National Park by 12.00am. The Lukimbi Lodge employs a similar number of permanent employees.

Photograph 1.14: Jock Safari Camp
Two SANParks camps are also located in the vicinity of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge, namely the Malalane and Berg en Dal camps. The small, self-catering Malalane camp is located on the northern bank of the Crocodile River, ~ 3 km south west of the Malalane Gate. The camp is unique in that it is only SANParks camp located on a boundary of the Kruger National Park. The Berg en Dal camp is set amongst granite koppies and was opened in 1984 making it one of the newest camps in the Kruger Park. The camp is located ~ 10 km north west of the Malalane Gate. The camp consists of 72 tent or caravan sites, 69 three-bed units, 23 six-bed cottages and two luxury units. The J Le Roux unit sleeps six in three bedrooms. The Rhino unit sleeps eight in four bedrooms.

1.5 APPROACH TO STUDY

The approach to the SIA study is based on the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Guidelines for Social Impact Assessment (February 2007). These guidelines are based on international best practice. The key activities in the SIA process embodied in the guidelines include:

- Describing and obtaining an understanding of the proposed intervention (type, scale, and location), the settlements, and communities likely to be affected by the proposed project.
- Collecting baseline data on the current social and economic environment.
- Identifying the key potential social issues associated with the proposed project. This requires a site visit to the area and consultation with affected individuals and communities. As part of the process a basic information document was prepared and made available to key interested and affected parties. The aim of the document was to inform the affected parties of the nature and activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed development to enable them to better understand and comment on the potential social issues and impacts.
- Assessing and documenting the significance of social impacts associated with the proposed intervention.
- Identifying alternatives and mitigation measures.

In this regard the study involved:

- Review of socio-economic data;
- Review of relevant planning and policy frameworks for the area;
- Site specific information collected during the site visit to the area and interviews with interested and affected parties;
- Identification and assessment of the social issues associated with the proposed project.

The identification of potential social issues associated with proposed facility is based on observations during the project site visit, review of relevant documentation, experience with similar projects and the general area.

Annexure A contains a list of the secondary information reviewed and interviews conducted. Annexure B summarises the assessment methodology used to assign significance ratings to the assessment process. Annexure C contains a copy of the Background Information Document provided to stakeholders.
1.5.1 Definition of social impacts

Social impacts can be defined as, “The consequences to human populations of any public or private actions (these include policies, programmes, plans and/or projects) that alter the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organise to meet their needs and generally live and cope as members of society. These impacts are felt at various levels, including individual level, family or household level, community, organisation or society level. Some social impacts are felt by the body as a physical reality, while other social impacts are perceptual or emotional” (Vanclay, 2002).

When considering social impacts, it is important to recognise that social change is a natural and on-going process (Burdge, 1995). However, it is also important to recognise and understand that policies, plans, programmes, and/or projects implemented by government departments and/or private institutions have the potential to influence and alter both the rate and direction of social change. Many social impacts are not in themselves “impacts” but change process that may lead to social impacts (Vanclay, 2002). For example, the influx of temporary construction workers is, in itself, not a social impact. However, their presence can result in a range of social impacts, such as increase in antisocial behaviour. The approach adopted by Vanclay stresses the importance of understanding the processes that can result in social impacts. It is, therefore, critical for social assessment specialists to think through the complex causal mechanisms that produce social impacts. By following impact pathways, or causal chains, and specifically, by thinking about interactions that are likely to be caused, the full range of impacts can be identified (Vanclay, 2002).

An SIA should, therefore, enable the authorities, project proponents, individuals, communities, and organisations to understand and be in a position to identify and anticipate the potential social consequences of the implementation of a proposed policy, programme, plan, or project. The SIA process should alert communities and individuals to the proposed project and possible social impacts, while at the same time allowing them to assess the implications and identify potential alternatives. The assessment process should also alert proponents and planners to the likelihood and nature of social impacts and enable them to anticipate and predict these impacts in advance so that the findings and recommendations of the assessment are incorporated into and inform the planning and decision-making process.

However, the issue of social impacts is complicated by the way in which different people from different cultural, ethic, religious, gender, and educational backgrounds etc. view the world. This is referred to as the “social construct of reality.” The social construct of reality informs people’s worldview and the way in which they react to changes.

1.5.2 Timing of social impacts

Social impacts vary in both time and space. In terms of timing, all projects and policies go through a series of phases, usually starting with initial planning, followed by implementation (construction), operation, and finally closure (decommissioning). The activities, and hence the type and duration of the social impacts associated with each of these phases, are likely to differ.
1.6 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

1.6.1 Assumptions

Kruger National Park Revised Zonation Plan

The Kruger National Park Revised Zonation Plan was approved by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs on 26 June 2013. The Revised Zonation Plan included the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The development opportunities associated with the PDZ include accommodation facilities such as rest camps, lodges, bush camps, picnic sites, view sites and rustic picnic sites. The focus of the SIA is on the proposed development within the PDZ and does not include an assessment of merits and or issues associated with the establishment of the PDZ.

Fit with planning and policy requirements

Legislation and policies reflect societal norms and values. The legislative and policy context therefore plays an important role in identifying and assessing the potential social impacts associated with a proposed development. In this regard, a key component of the SIA process is to assess the proposed development in terms of its fit with key planning and policy documents. As such, if the findings of the study indicate that the proposed development in its current format does not conform to the spatial principles and guidelines contained in the relevant legislation and planning documents, and there are no significant or unique opportunities created by the development, the development cannot be supported.

However, as indicated above, the proposed development is located within the PDZ. The development opportunities that have been identified as compatible with the PDZ include accommodation facilities such as rest camps, lodges, bush camps, picnic sites, view sites and rustic picnic sites.

1.6.2 Limitations

Assessment of alternative options

No alternative sites were assessed.

Demographic data

The information contained in key policy and land use planning documents, such as the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, does not refer to the data from the 2011 Census. However, the relevant 2011 Census data is provided at a local and district municipal level.

1.7 SPECIALIST DETAILS

Tony Barbour, the author of this report is an independent specialist with 24 years’ experience in the field of environmental management. In terms of SIA experience, Tony Barbour has undertaken in the region of 120 SIA’s and is the author of the Guidelines for Social Impact Assessments for EIA’s adopted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) in the Western Cape in 2007.
1.8 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

This confirms that Tony Barbour, the specialist consultant responsible for undertaking the study and preparing the report, is independent and does not have vested or financial interests in proposed project being either approved or rejected.

1.9 REPORT STRUCTURE

The report is divided into five sections, namely:

- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Summary of key policy and planning documents relating to the area in question;
- Section 3: Overview of the study area
- Section 4: Identification and assessment of key social issues
- Section 5: Summary of key findings and recommendations.
SECTION 2: POLICY AND PLANNING ENVIRONMENT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 2 provides an overview of the policy and planning environment affecting the proposed development. The focus of the section is on the key planning documentation pertaining to the Kruger National Park. The following policy and planning documents were reviewed, namely:

- Kruger National Park Management Plan;
- Kruger National Park Zonation Plan; and
- Revised Kruger Park Zonation Plan.

The section also provides a summary of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) for the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and Nkomasi Local Municipality. The focus of these reviews is on identifying the key socio-economic challenges and opportunities in the study area and the relevance of these to the proposed development.

2.2 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN (KNPMP)

The Kruger National Park Management Plan (KNPMP) was reviewed and updated in 2008. The KNP Mission, which is in keeping with the SANParks mission, is to maintain biodiversity in all its natural facets and fluxes, to provide human benefits and build a strong constituency and to preserve as far as possible the wilderness qualities and cultural resources associated with the Park.

The SANParks Coordinated Policy Framework provides the overall framework to which all Park Management Plans align. This policy sets out the ecological, economic, technological, social and political environments of national parks at the highest level. This approach to the management of a National Park is in line with the requirements of the National Environment Management: Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003 (NEM: PAA). Overall the Park Management Plan forms part of a National Planning framework for protected areas.

The key functions of the management plan are to:

- Ensure that the KNP is managed according to the reason it was declared;
- Be a tool to guide management of a protected area at all levels, from the basic operational level to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism;
- Be a tool which enables the evaluation of progress against set objectives;
- Be a document which can be used to set up key performance indicators for Park staff; and
- Set the intent of the Park, and provide explicit evidence for the financial support required for the Park.

The KNPMP lists SANParks core conservation values that underpin what the organisation strives to achieve, namely:
SANParks respects the complexity, as well as, the richness and diversity of the socio-ecological system making up each National Park and the wider landscape and context. We respect the interdependency of the formative elements, the associated biotic and landscape diversity, and the aesthetic, cultural, educational and spiritual attributes and leverage all these for creative and useful learning; SANParks strives to maintain natural processes in ecosystems, along with the uniqueness, authenticity and worth of cultural heritage, so that these systems and their elements can be resilient and hence persist; SANParks manages with humility the systems under our custodianship, recognising and influencing the wider socio-ecological context in which we are embedded; SANParks strives to maintain a healthy flow of ecosystem and cultural goods and services (specifically preserving cultural artefacts), and to make these available, also through access to national parks, thereby promoting enjoyment, appreciation and other benefits for people; When necessary, SANParks will intervene in a responsible and sustainable manner, complementing natural processes as far as possible, using only the level of interference needed to achieve our mandate; SANParks will do all the above in such a way as to preserve all options for future generations, while also recognising that systems change over time; Finally, SANParks acknowledges that conversion of some natural and cultural capital has to take place for the purpose of sustaining our mandate, but that this should never erode the core values above.

The KNMP also lists the key attributes of the KNP. These include its size (KNP is one of the largest national parks in the world), biodiversity, compatibility of ecotourism biodiversity conservation; KNPs role as a hub for tourism, well-developed infrastructure, established history of research and management and existence of significant wilderness areas, location relative to transfrontier park/area.

The KNPs Conservation Development Framework (which includes a Zonation Plan) details the spatial targets and constraints through specification of strategic land use intent for the KNP for the next 20 years. The KNMP also lists the key management objectives, including:

- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Objectives;
- Integrating Objectives;
- People Objectives;
- Enabling Objectives;

The aim of the People Objectives is “To provide human benefits and build a strong constituency, preserving as far as possible the wilderness qualities and cultural resources associated with the KNP”.

Under Peoples Objectives, the plan outlines the Tourism Objective of the KNP, which is to develop, manage and enhance a range of sustainable tourism products in synergy with the KNP conservation ethic. The Plan notes that this will be done by satisfying evolving market needs, through predictable service excellence, high quality standards and infrastructure. Sound business principles will be used to generate revenue from the tourism initiative to support the SANParks conservation mandate.

Also of relevance to the study are the:

- Sustainable Tourism Programme;
Sustainable Tourism Programme
The KNPPMP notes that tourism is a conservation strategy in SANParks. Through KNP’s tourism ventures, facilities, products and experiences, SANParks communicates key biodiversity conservation and sustainable living messages, while at the same time conveying principles of best practice for responsible environmental management.

Commercialisation strategy
The KNPPMP notes that the Commercialisation Strategy forms a significant element of the ecotourism pillar. The Commercialisation Strategy (which through the implementation of Public Private Partnerships (PPP)) has as its objective the reduction of cost of delivery, improving service levels by focusing on core business and leveraging private capital and expertise, as well as, the objective of expansion of tourism products and the generation of additional revenue for the funding of conservation and constituency building.

SANParks embarked on the commercialisation process in 2000 which involved granting concessionaires rights for the use of defined areas of land and infrastructure within National Parks, coupled with the opportunity to build and operate tourism facilities over specific time periods. The aim of the process has been to increase the net revenue that commercial activities contribute to SANParks’ core function of nature conservation.

The programme led to the outsourcing of management of luxury tourism operations to commercial operators, who were considered to be more qualified and equipped to manage such facilities. Major objectives included the promotion of economic empowerment of the formerly disadvantaged, the promotion and provision of business opportunities to emerging entrepreneurs (in particular local communities adjacent to national parks) and the application of SANParks’ environmental regulations and global parameters to all concessions. As a result of the commercialisation process in 2000, seven up-market lodges were established in KNP. The locations of the lodges are illustrated in Figure 2.1. Jock Safari Lodge and Lukimbi are the concession areas that are located closest to the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge.

In addition to the concessions areas, additional tourism revenue is generated from the open safari vehicle programme. The concept was initiated in 1995 and has grown to 47 private companies with 183 vehicles operating in the KNP (KPMP, 2008)
Figure 2.1: Location of private concession areas within KNP (Source, KNP CDF)
Local Socio-Economic Development Programme

This programme aims to contribute effectively to local economic development, economic empowerment and social development in communities and neighbouring areas adjacent to the KNP with an emphasis on redressing past imbalances. The KPMP notes that to achieve this the KNP must participate more effectively in municipal integrated development plans (IDP's) and continue participating in appropriate government programmes (especially Working for Water, Expanded Public Works Programmes etc.).

In terms of spatial planning, the KPMP indicates that SANParks currently has two primary levels of spatial planning, namely:

Conservation Development Framework (CDF)

The CDF is a strategic spatial plan for the national park and its surrounds that indicates a range of visitor use zones, areas requiring special management intervention, the placement of visitor facilities, the nature and size of these facilities, entry points and movement routes through the park.

Zonation Plan

The KPMP indicates that the Zonation Plan is a lean version of the CDF, and the primary tool used in the past. In future, the Zonation Plan will be included in the CDF.

The development of the draft CDF for the KNP followed an integrated adaptive process based on the principles of Strategic Environmental Assessment in 2006. A revised Zonation Plan was developed as part of the CDF process. The primary objective of the Zonation Plan was to establish a coherent spatial framework in (but not yet around) the KNP to guide and co-ordinate conservation, tourism and visitor experience initiatives. The rationale for and standard zonation criteria are contained in the SANParks zonation policy (SANParks 2006). The Zonation Plan plays an important role in minimising conflicts between different users of a park by separating potentially conflicting activities whilst ensuring that activities which do not conflict with the park's values and objectives can continue in appropriate areas.

The zones for the KNP are illustrated in Figure 2.2 and described below:

**Wilderness Zone:** This is an area retaining an intrinsically wild appearance and character, or capable of being restored to such and which is undeveloped and without roads. The area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and has awe-inspiring natural characteristics. Wilderness zones are managed to protect and maintain natural and cultural biodiversity and the provision of environmental goods and services. Management interventions use a "minimum tool approach” and “no-trace-left” activities may be conducted.

**Remote Zone:** These areas provide a "wilderness experience", but do not necessarily comply with the criteria for legal designation as wilderness. Human impacts (evidence of human use / existence) from outside the zone may be visible or audible from certain vantage points. There is no mechanized access or facilities within these zones for visitor use with the emphasis on “leave no trace” activities and operations, but small tracks for anti-poaching access may be present. These areas sometimes act as buffer zones to the wilderness areas.

**Primitive Zone:** The prime characteristic of the zone is the experience of primitive conditions and wilderness qualities with access controlled in terms of numbers, frequency and size of groups. The zone shares the wilderness qualities of the Remote Zone, but with limited access roads and the potential for basic small-scale self-catering
accommodation facilities such as bush camps or small concession lodges. Views of human activities and development outside of the park may be visible from this zone.

**Low Intensity Leisure Zone:** These slightly modified landscapes can absorb larger concentrations of people. The underlying characteristic of this zone is motorized self-drive access with the possibility of small camps. Facilities along roads are limited to basic self-catering picnic sites with toilet facilities.

**High Intensity Leisure Zone:** These areas are high density tourist development nodes with modern amenities, incorporating the high volume transport routes. Activities are concentrated and a range of infrastructure and facilities is on offer, although still reflecting the ethos and character of the park.
Figure 2.2: Location of management zones within Kruger National Park (Source, KNP CDF)
2.3 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK ZONATION PLAN (MARCH 2008)

The Zonation Plan notes that SANParks is required to adopt a spatial planning system in all National Parks viz. the Conservation Development Framework (CDF), in accordance with the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act. The CDF forms an integral part of SANParks management and planning systems, both at the corporate level, as well as, at the park level. A CDF is a management tool. Its primary objective is to establish a coherent spatial framework to guide and co-ordinate various conservation, tourism and visitor experience initiatives in and around a park. A park’s conservation initiatives focus on the management of its biodiversity, heritage and scenic resources. A park’s development initiatives focus on the provision of infrastructure and facilities for visitors.

The Kruger CDF is a broad spatial plan in which activity and development areas are identified within the broader zonation scheme. The precise nature of these nodes is further expanded on in the Master plans and detailed designs. The CDF also looks beyond the park’s borders, and gives attention to managing the park interface and its land inclusion programme.

The development of the KNP CDF and Zonational Plan were informed by previous studies including the Hoek Report (1952, Professor Hoek), KNP Masterplan (1975, Joubert), Van Riet proposals (1985), revised Master Plan (1986, Joubert) and Recreation Opportunity Zoning (ROZ) Plan (Venter et al, 1997). The ROZ Plan included several additions to the wilderness zones as reflected by the Masterplan for the Management of the Kruger National Park (Joubert 1986) and included biodiversity objectives. The ROZ Plan also included new categories of zones where different uses could be implemented and was approved by the SANParks Board as part of the KNP Management Plan (Braack 1997).

A team was established in August 2006 to develop a draft zonation plan for the Kruger Management Plan based on the data available at the time. Zones were derived based on expert knowledge and in a workshop environment (07/08/2006). The outcome was the six zone classification system described above and illustrated in Figure 2.3 below.
Figure 2.3: Final Kruger Zonation – Drilled down to Primitive and Leisure zone divisions (Source, KNP CDF)
2.4 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK REVISED ZONATION PLAN

The Revised Zonation Plan notes that there is a need for SANparks to re-think the zonation system for the Kruger National Park (Kruger NP) in order to reflect the complexity of managing a National Park in the 21st century. As a result, the revised zonation is based on the imperatives for the conservation of biodiversity, socio-economic upliftment, land restitution, proposed Greater Lebombo Conservancy (GLC) buffer zone in Mozambique and opportunities for tourism development as a vehicle for economic growth in the regions where the park is situated. In particular, wilderness areas were previously demarcated with very little future developments and people’s socio-economic needs in mind.

The revised plan notes “In summary the new zonation plan takes full recognition that the Kruger NP is inextricably linked to the communities that it serves and the region rather than the island it was in what was referred to as a “sea of poverty” (Mabunda, 2003)”. As far as the northern section is concerned, the revised plan indicates that the north will largely be a wilderness destination with very little development in future. According to Statistics South Africa the Kruger NP is surrounded by three million people living in 181 villages. The plan indicates that these people must be legitimate beneficiaries of the Kruger NP.

The Revised Zonation Plan also makes provision for the re-zoning of significantly larger areas in the south of Kruger NP as medium and high tourism impact zones. The plan indicates that the recent developments of the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, the growth of Nelspruit into city status, the mushrooming of eco-towns like Marloth Park on the southern boundary, the pressure to develop lodges on the borders of the Kruger NP and growth of the Nkomazi Municipality into a regional town necessitate a change of the zoning of the south of Kruger NP from one that restricts access to an open but controlled increased visitor management system underpinned by modern techniques.

Of significance to this study the Revised Plan notes that in order to enable SANParks to deliver on its vision of “Connecting to Society” two additional zones were added, namely:

- Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park;
- Multiple Use Zone (MUZ) which extends 3 km outside the boundary of the Kruger NP.

In these areas the Kruger NP management may enter into agreements with communities for joint ventures. The PDZ creates an opportunity for socio-economic development opportunities within a 2km buffer from the boundary of the park that would support job creation amongst communities. These development opportunities include park entrance gates, reception, ablution facilities, parking areas, interpretative centre and accommodation facilities such as rest camps, lodges, bush camps, picnic sites, view sites and rustic picnic sites. The PDZ also affords viewshed protection in support of conservation and the management of wilderness areas.

The aim of the MUZ is to connect Kruger NP with the local people. In this regard the 3 km MUZ located directly adjacent to the Kruger NP boundary is intended to be a multiple use zone in accordance with the Department of Environmental Affairs’ policy on buffer zones for National Parks to further SANParks community socio-economic upliftment and benefit-sharing objectives.
The Revised Zonation Plan for the KNP was approved by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs B E E Molewa on 27 June 2013.

As indicated in Figure 2.4, the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge site is located within the PDZ.

![Diagram showing the location of Malelane Safari Lodge relative to Peripheral Development Zone]

**Figure 2.4: Location of Malelane Safari Lodge relative to Peripheral Development Zone**

### 2.5 EHLANZENI INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The vision of the Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) is to be the best performing District of the 21st Century. The mission statement is “Ehlanzeni District Municipality shall strive to excel in planning, co-ordination and support for our Local Municipalities in consultation with all stakeholders to ensure the best standard of living for all”.

The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) lists a number of Key Performance Areas (KPAs). Of relevance to the proposed project is KPA 2, Local Economic Development. The IDP highlights the high dependency with unemployment levels in the EDM, the shortage of appropriate economic skills and need to promote economic development in the district. The IDP also notes the need to investigate Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to promote economic development in the area. Within the NLM the need for job creation and skills development and training are highlighted.
The IDP also identifies a number of strategic initiatives in the EDM that are relevant to the proposed development (Figure 2.5). These include:

**Maputo Development Corridor**
The Maputo Development Corridor (MDC) is an initiative undertaken between the South African government and the Mozambican government in 1995. The transport axis between Gauteng, the industrial heart of South Africa, and Maputo offers the shortest link to an export harbour. The Corridor runs from Witbank in the Eastern South African province of Mpumalanga, through Nelspruit and Malalane, to Maputo the capital of Mozambique. The key infrastructure projects are the N4 Maputo Corridor toll road, the upgrading of the railway line from Ressano Garcia to Maputo, the upgrading of the Maputo Port, the dredging of the harbour and telecommunications. The broad primary objective of the Corridor is to rehabilitate the core infrastructure, i.e. road, rail, border post, port and dredging of the port, thereby re-establishing key linkages and opening up underutilized economic development opportunities for both countries.

The Maputo Development Corridor provides Ehlanzeni DM, specifically Mbombela, with the status of economic development node. The Spatial Development Framework (SDF) identifies a number of spatial development initiatives that are of critical importance to the district namely, the Maputo Development Corridor Spatial Initiative, the Tourism and Biodiversity Corridor and the Limpopo Transfrontier Park. These initiatives are also of relevance to the proposed development.

**Limpopo Trans Frontier Park**
The Kruger National Park is the largest game reserve in South Africa and covers ~ 20,000 km². The incorporation of the Kruger National Park into the Great Limpopo Trans-frontier Park has increased the total area to 35 000 km². The Park is part of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere, an area designated by the United Nations Education and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) as an International Man and Biosphere Reserve.

**Tourism and Biodiversity Corridor**
The Tourism and Bio diversity corridor (T&BC) includes parts of south-eastern Mpumalanga, northern Swaziland and southern Mozambique, which are closely associated with the Maputo Corridor Spatial initiative. The corridor seeks to add a further dimension to the Maputo corridor and promotes the utilisation of the undeveloped tourism development potential in the poorer rural areas. The T&BC also coordinates and integrates with agricultural led developments forming part of the Komati River Basin Development programme.
The SDF and IDP identify a number of spatial development priorities for the EDM. These include:

- Priority 1: An integrated functional urban and rural system
- Priority 2: Focus investment on localities with greatest economic potential
- Priority 3: Development of areas with a high development need and low levels of economic and livelihoods potential
- Priority 4: The development of sustainable settlements in rural areas;
- Priority 5: The responsible use and management of the natural environment
- Priority 6: Human Resources Development
- Priority 7: Land Reform’
- Priority 8: Enhancing regional accessibility

Priority 2, 3, 5 and 6 are the most relevant to the proposed development. Priority 5: notes that "The protection and preservation of not only the Kruger National Park as an international nature reserve but also the provision of managed buffer zones within the adjoining municipal areas form part of spatial development “Priority 6: Human Resources Development, indicates that “spatial restructuring will not occur if development of the people does not happen”. It therefore highlights the importance of skills development programmes within areas with a high development need and low levels of economic and livelihoods potential, such as the Nkomazi LM.

A Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis undertaken as part of the IDP process indicated that the key opportunities in the area included the N4 linking Maputo with Gauteng and the Kruger National Park and the areas tourism potential, world class natural sites (Blyde, River Canyon and Pilgrims Rest) and the growth of Mbombela (Nelspruit). The threats included high levels of poverty and lack of skills, high unemployment rates and loss of biodiversity. The opportunities included the Maputo Development Corridor, tourism, SMMEs and co-operative development.
2.6 NKOMAZI INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The vision for the Inkomazi Local Municipality (NLM) is to be “A leading local municipality that empowers its communities through excellent service delivery”. The mission is “To enhance the quality of life of all the communities in the Nkomazi Local Municipality area through rendering basic services in an efficient and cost-effective manner that adheres to the principles of sustainable development”.

The IDP identifies a number of Key Performance Areas (KPAs) of which KPA 2: Local Economic Development (LED) is the most relevant to the proposed project. The LED strategy for the NLM defines the LED Vision of the municipality as ‘quality life for all through sustainable economic development’ and the mission is ‘to create and sustain economic growth and development that addresses the challenges of joblessness, poverty and wealth inequality in an environmentally sustainable manner’. The key challenges identified in the LED include:

- Economic growth and development;
- Employment creation (job);
- Poverty eradication (alleviation) and equitable distribution of wealth.

The IDP also notes that the LED strategy identifies five (5) key pillars for development in the NLM. The following are of relevance to the proposed development:

- SMME development and support;
- Investment planning and promotion
- Targeted economic development and support, specifically with reference to Tourism.

A SWOT analysis undertaken as part of the IDP process indicated that the key opportunities in the NLM included the geographic location in respect to the Maputo Development Corridor and tourism. Beneficiation from Kruger National Park is identified as a key opportunity. The threats included high unemployment and illiteracy rates.

The Spatial Development Framework (SDF) for the NLM lists the main structuring elements that have and continue to influence the spatial form of the NLM and future investment in the region (Figure 2.6). The following elements are of relevance to the proposed development.

**N4 Maputo Development Corridor:** The alignments of the N4 highway and railway line have played a vital role in the development of the main urban centres in the northern part of the municipality i.e. Malalane, Hectorspruit and Komatipoort.

**Kruger National Park:** The Kruger National Park dictates the type of land uses to be found adjacent to its border, including agriculture, tourism related developments i.e. eco areas, conservancies and uses focusing on nature conservation.
Figure 2.6: Land uses within the Nkomazi LM (Source, NLM IDP)
SECTION 3: OVERVIEW OF STUDY AREA

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 3 provides an overview of the study area with regard to:

- The relevant administrative context;
- The provincial context; and,
- The municipal context.

3.2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is located within the Nkomazi Local Municipality (NLM), which is one of five local municipalities that make up the Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) (Figure 3.1). The other four are the Thaba Chweu, Mbombela, Umjindi, and Bushbuckridge LMs. The EDM is one of three district municipalities (DMs) that make up the Mpumalanga Province. The other two are the Gert Sibande and Nkangala DMs. The EDM is bordered by Mozambique and Swaziland in the east, Gert Sibande DM in the south, Mopani and Sekhukhune Districts of Limpopo Province in the north and Nkangala DM in the west. Mbombela (Nelspruit) is the administrative capital of the EDM and the Mbombela LM. Malalane is the administrative centre of the NLM.

![Figure 3.1: Location of Elanzeni District Municipality and Nkomazi Local Municipality](Source, Wikipedia)

The District used to include a District Management Area (DMA) in the southern part of Kruger National Park. This area has been allocated between the Mbombela, Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge LMs. The total size of the EDM is 2,366,353 ha, of which the NLM makes up 12.3% of the total area. The section of the Kruger National Park that falls within the EDM makes up 36.8% of the total area.
3.3 **PROVINCIAL-LEVEL OVERVIEW**

The Mpumalanga Province covers an area of 76,495 km$^2$ (7,649,460 ha), or 6.3% of the total area of South Africa. Agriculture is the largest land user, utilising approximately 68% of the Province. Nature reserves cover 19% and forestry plantations 9% of the Province. The remaining part of the Province is used by human settlements, water bodies (dams and pans) and mines (Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, October 2011).

The primary land use requirements in Mpumalanga are for agricultural production, mining, industries, forestation, ecotourism, private game farming, and protected areas for nature conservation. The Province is dominated by vast open areas of natural vegetation which accounts for around 71% of the total land area in the Province. The extent of transformed land and/or degraded land is reportedly relatively small. Most of the converted land is under some form of cultivation (26%), including commercial plantations, which comprise 8% of the total area of Mpumalanga. Urban areas only comprise about 1.25% of the Province which is relatively small (Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, October 2011).

The continued expansion of agricultural, mining and industrial activities in the Province have impacted on the biodiversity of the region through land clearing, deterioration of soil quality, erosion and contamination. Since land is a limited resource, demand for land will become more competitive in the years to come and measures have to be put in place to regulate and balance economic growth priorities, with population growth requirements and the preservation of the environment.

In 2009, Mpumalanga contributed R169.9 billion to South African GDP, ranking it the fifth largest among the nine provinces. Within the province, the Nkangala District was the largest contributor to the provincial economy's Gross Value Addition (GVA), with a share of 39.9% in 2009. This was largely due to the district's considerable contributions to the province's utilities (71.9%) and mining (67.9%) sectors in 2009. Gert Sibande District, with a 31.2% share in 2009, was the second largest contributor to the provincial economy. In 2009, Gert Sibande was the main contributor to Mpumalanga’s manufacturing (54.8%) and agriculture sectors (41.3%). This manufacturing was almost entirely due to SASOL's activities in the Govan Mbeki local municipality. The Ehlanzeni District was the smallest contributor with 28.9% (Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, October 2011).

The primary sector in Mpumalanga contributed 22.2%, secondary sector 27.3% and tertiary sector 50.5% to the provincial GVA in 2009. The three largest contributors to the provincial economy in 2009 were manufacturing (20.1%), mining (18.6%) and community services (16.4%). The manufacturing sector dominated the district economy of Gert Sibande with a 32.8%. Mining activities dominated the Nkangala economy (29.7%), while the largest contributing sector in Ehlanzeni was community services (27.3%) (Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, October 2011).

The agriculture and forestry sectors play a key role in the provincial economy. The role of agriculture in supplying employment to unskilled workers, ensuring food security to rural people, as well as, stimulating other sectors in the value-chain such as manufacturing and trade makes it an important sector towards the attainment of growth and development. In terms of agricultural production, summer cereals and legumes (sunflower seed, sorghum, dry beans, soy beans, potatoes, cotton and maize) dominate
the Highveld region, while subtropical and citrus fruit and sugar are grown extensively in the Lowveld. For the most part, dry land farming is utilised in agricultural production in the Highveld, with intensive irrigation activities taking place in the Loskop area near Groblersdal and in the Lowveld area adjacent to the Crocodile and Komati Rivers.

In terms of forestry, Mpumalanga is the country’s major forestry production area and accounted for 22.8% of South Africa’s forestry and logging GVA in 2009. Mpumalanga accounts for 40% of the total forestry income of the country. About 11% of the province is forested, with 4% of that being natural forest (Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, October 2011).

In terms of tourism, according to Tourism South Africa’s Annual Report 2009, Mpumalanga was the third most visited province by foreign visitors in 2009 with a share of 14% of total foreign arrivals. This was up from 13.4% in 2008. Of this 1 390 755 foreign tourists in the province, 76.6 per % were from land markets (i.e. Mozambique and Swaziland) and 23.4% from air markets (Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, October 2011). The Kruger National Park is recognised both locally and internationally as a key tourist destination.

Mpumalanga is also endowed rich mineral resources, specifically coal resources. This has contributed to the emergence of significant downstream linkages, most notably to the establishment of heavy industrial activities such as power stations, steelmaking operations, paper mills, and chemical plants. Such industries have been critical in facilitating additional linkage development by attracting related and supporting industries and hence, contributing to a greater role of secondary and tertiary activities in the Province (Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, October 2011).

In terms of employment, the unemployment rate in Mpumalanga was 25.5% at the end of the third quarter 2009 and increased to 28.4% at the end of the third quarter 2010. This was higher than the national average. Mpumalanga, recorded the second highest unemployment rate among the nine provinces after Free State (29.5%). The occupational profile of Mpumalanga was also heavily skewed towards semi- and unskilled occupations. The share of highly educated or skilled occupations (managers and professionals) was only 9.4%. The share of the category of elementary occupations (unskilled or semi-skilled) was 26.2% (Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, October 2011). This trend is unlikely to have changed significantly.

The poverty rate in Mpumalanga in 2009 was 46.8%, higher than the national rate of 41.3%. Mpumalanga’s poverty rate was the fourth highest (worst) among the nine provinces. In 2009 it was estimated that 1.75 million of Mpumalanga’s citizens lived in households with an income less than the poverty income. Poverty income is defined as the minimum income needed to sustain a household and varies according to the size of the household. For example, the monthly poverty income in 2009 for a household of four, as calculated by the Bureau for Market Research (BMR), was R2 440 and R3 396 for a household of six. The poverty rate is then the percentage of people living in households with an income less than the poverty income. Among the local municipalities, Mbombela (253 500) registered the largest number of poor individuals followed by Nkomazi (245 500) and Bushbuckridge (221 000). In terms of inequality levels, the local municipality with the highest inequality was Steve Tshwete (0.69), whilst Nkomazi (0.59) was the municipality with the lowest inequality (Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan, October 2011).
3.4 MUNICIPAL-LEVEL OVERVIEW

3.4.1 Demographics

As indicated in Table 3.1., the population of the EDM increased by from 1 447 125 in 2001 to 1 686 615 in 2011, which represents a significant increase of ~ 14%. The population of the NLM increased from 334 668 in 2001 to 390 610 in 2011 (~ 14%) over the same period. This represents an average annual increase of ~ 1.54 % and 1.55 % for the EDM and NLM respectively. The increase in the population in both the EDM and NLM was largely linked to an increase in the 15-64 age group. There was a decrease in the less than 15 age group in both the EDM and NLM. In terms of breakdown, 97.7% of the population of the NLM was Black African, 1.6% White, 0.3% Indian or Asian and 0.2% Coloured. The main languages spoken were SiSwati (88%), Xitsonga (6.7%), Afrikaans (1.4%) and English (1.1%).

As expected, the number of households in both the EDM and NLM increased between 2001 and 2011. The size of the households in both areas decreased, namely from 4.1 to 3.7 (EDM) and 4.4 to 4.0 (NLM). The reduction in the average size of households is linked to the decrease in the percentage of the population younger than 15 years of age in both the EDM and NLM.

The dependency ratio in both the EDM and NLM decreased significantly, from 73.2 to 60.4 and 81.2 to 65.4 respectively. The age dependency ratio is the ratio of dependents, people younger than 15 or older than 64, to the working, age population, those ages 15-64. The decrease represents a positive socio-economic improvement by indicating that there are a decreasing number of people dependent on the economically active 15-64 age group. However, despite the improvements, the dependency ratios for both the EDM and NLM were higher than the ratio for Mpumulanga as whole, namely 56 in 2011. The dependency ratios were also higher than the national average of 52.7.

Household income data from the 2011 Census indicated that 16.8% of the households had no income, while a further 19.7% earned R 800 per month or less (R 800 per month is the accepted poverty norm in South Africa). A total of 36.5 % of all households in the NLM therefore had annual incomes of R 800 per month or less. In addition, 23% of households earned between R 9 601 and R 19 600 per annum. Based on this information household income levels for the majority of households in the NLM are low.

In terms of percentage of formal dwellings, the number of formal dwellings in the EDM increased from 80.6 % in 2001 to 91.8 % in 2011. In the NLM the number of formal dwellings increased significantly from 76.6 % to 92.5 % for the same period. This represents a significant socio-economic improvement in the NLM and reflects positively on commitment of the NLM to provide formal housing. However, as indicated in Table 3.2 below, the improvement in formal housing in both the EDM and NLM has not been matched in terms of the provision of basic services.

The official unemployment rate in both the EDM and NLM has decreased for the ten year period between 2001 and 2011. In the EDM the rate fell from 42.7 % to 34.4 %, a decrease of 8.3%. In the NLM the unemployment rate decreased from 41.4 % to 34.2 %, a decrease of 7.2 %. Youth unemployment in both the EDM and NLM also dropped over the same period, from 52.0% to 44.2 % and 48.0 % to 42.3 % respectively. However, the unemployment and youth unemployment levels in the EDM and NLM are higher than the provincial (31.6 % and 41.1 %) and national averages (29.8 % and 38.4 %). Unemployment, especially youth unemployment therefore remains a challenge in the area.
At the same time the education levels improved, with the percentage of the population over 20 years of age with no schooling dropping in the EDM decreasing from 33.4 % to 16.6%. For the NLM the decrease was from a high of 44.4 to 25.6 %. Despite these improvements the percentage of the population over 20 years of age in both areas, specifically the NLM, remains significantly higher than both the provincial (14.0%) and national averages (8.6 %). This reflects the rural nature of both the EDM and NLM and the challenges faced by rural communities when it comes to accessing education. The percentage of the population over the age of 20 with matric also increased in both the EDM and NLM, from 17.0 % to 29.0 % in the EDM and 13.6% to 25.6 % in the NLM. The figures are similar to the provincial (28.9 %) and national (28.4%) averages.

Table 3.1: Overview of key demographic indicators for the EDM and NLM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASPECT</th>
<th>EDM</th>
<th>NLM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>1 447 125</td>
<td>1 686 615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Population &lt;15 years</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Population 15-64</td>
<td>57.7</td>
<td>62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Population 65+</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>328 337</td>
<td>445 087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household size (average)</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Dwellings %</td>
<td>80.6 %</td>
<td>91.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependency ratio per 100 (15-64)</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>60.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (official)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- % of economically active</td>
<td>42.7 %</td>
<td>34.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth unemployment rate (official)</td>
<td>52.0 %</td>
<td>44.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- % of economically active</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>population 15-34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No schooling - % of population 20+</td>
<td>33.4 %</td>
<td>16.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education - % of population 20+</td>
<td>6.3 %</td>
<td>9.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matric - % of population 20+</td>
<td>17.0 %</td>
<td>29.0 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from StatsSA Census 2011 Municipal Fact Sheet
3.4.2 Municipal services

As indicated in Table 3.2, with the exception of a decrease in the number of households in the NLM with flush toilets, the access to municipal services as measured in terms of flush toilets, refuse removal, piped water and electricity, has increased in both the EDM and NLM for the period 2001 to 2011. However, despite these increases the access to key services in both the EDM and NLM is lower than the provincial and national averages for 2011, specifically in the case of access to flush toilets, access to weekly refuse removal and piped water inside dwellings. Therefore, while there has been a significant increase in the number of formal dwellings this has not been matched by the provision of these key services. This is also likely to be linked to the rural nature of the EDM and NLM and the challenges associated with providing services to isolated rural settlements.

Table 3.2: Overview of access to basic services in the EDM and NLM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EDM 2001</th>
<th>EDM 2011</th>
<th>NLM 2001</th>
<th>NLM 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% households with access to flush toilet</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% households with weekly municipal refuse removal</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% households with piped water inside dwelling</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% households which uses electricity for lighting</td>
<td>68.3</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from StatsSA Census 2011 Municipal Fact Sheet
SECTION 4: IDENTIFICATION OF KEY ISSUES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 4 provides an assessment of the key social issues identified during the study. The identification of key issues was based on:

- Review of project related information, including other specialist studies;
- Interviews with key interested and affected parties;
- Experience with similar projects.

The assessment section is divided into the following sections:

- Assessment of compatibility with relevant policy and planning context ("planning fit");
- Assessment of social issues associated with the construction phase;
- Assessment of social issues associated with the operational phase;
- Assessment of social issues associated with the decommissioning phase.
- Assessment of the "no development" alternative;
- Assessment of cumulative impacts.

4.2 ASSESSMENT OF POLICY AND PLANNING FIT

As indicated in Section 1.6, legislative and policy context plays an important role in identifying and assessing the potential social impacts associated with a proposed development. In this regard a key component of the SIA process is to assess the proposed development in terms of its fit with key planning and policy documents. A review of the relevant planning and policy documents was therefore undertaken as a part of the SIA. The focus of the review was on the key planning documentation pertaining to the Kruger National Park. In this regard the following policy and planning documents were reviewed, namely:

- Kruger National Park Management Plan;
- Kruger National Park Zonation Plan; and
- Revised Kruger Park Zonation Plan.

The IDPs for the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and Nkomasi Local Municipality were also reviewed in order to identify the key socio-economic challenges and opportunities in the study area and the relevance of these to the proposed development.

With regards to the Kruger National Park the findings of the review indicate that the Kruger National Park Revised Zonation Plan was approved by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs on 26 June 2013. The Revised Zonation Plan sets out the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The development opportunities associated with the PDZ include accommodation facilities such as rest camps, lodges, bush camps, picnic sites, view sites and rustic
picnic sites. The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is located within the PDZ and is therefore compatible with the land uses permitted within the PDZ.

4.3 CONSTRUCTION PHASE SOCIAL IMPACTS

The key social issues associated with the construction phase are the following:

Potential positive impacts
- Creation of employment and business opportunities;

Potential negative impacts
- Impacts associated with the presence of construction workers on local communities;
- Increased risk of poaching associated with presence of construction workers on the site;
- Increased risk of grass fires associated with construction related activities;
- Noise, dust and safety impacts of construction related activities and vehicles.

4.3.1 Creation of employment and business opportunities

Based on the information provided by Malelane Sarafi Resort Investments (Pty) Ltd, the construction phase for the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is expected to extend over a period of 12-18 months and create approximately 130 employment opportunities during peak construction. The work associated with the construction phase will be undertaken by contractors and will include the construction of the 120 safari tents, the Main Lodge complex, Conference Centre, Wellness Centre, Family Centre, Environmental Education Centre at the Lodge site and the Park and Ride facility at the Malalane Gate. In addition, the work will include the construction of an approximately 3km section of the S114, which will be realigned west of the lodge site and the up-grade of the existing S114 south of the Safari Lodge. Based on information from similar construction projects it is anticipated that approximately 70% (91) of the employment opportunities will be available to low skilled workers (construction labourers, security staff etc.), 20% (26) for semi-skilled workers (drivers, equipment operators etc.) and 10% (13) for skilled personnel (engineers, land surveyors, project managers etc.).

The wage bill for labour employed during the construction phase is estimated to be in the region of R 10.3 million (2014 rand value). Members from the local communities are likely to be in a position to qualify for the majority of the low skilled and semi-skilled employment opportunities. The majority of these employment opportunities are also likely to accrue to Historically Disadvantaged (HD) members from the local community.

Given high local unemployment levels and limited job opportunities in the area, this will represent a significant, if localised, social benefit for the Nkomazi Local Municipality. The majority of the skilled employment opportunities are likely to be associated with the contractors appointed to construct the lodge and associated infrastructure. However, in the absence of specific commitments from the developer to maximise local employment targets the potential opportunities for local employment will be limited. In addition, the low education and skills levels in the area may also hamper potential opportunities for local communities. Due to the short duration of the construction phase (12-18 months) the potential for implementing an effective training and skills development programme are likely to be limited.
The wages for staff administration on and off the site and professional fees are estimated to be R 6.6 million and R 5 million respectively. The total wage bill for the construction phase will, therefore, be in the region of R 22 million. Members from the local community are also likely to be employed as part of the onsite administration. Local professionals, such as consulting engineers and attorneys, are also likely to benefit from the project.

The capital expenditure, including wages, associated with the construction and establishment of the proposed lodge will be in the region of R 283 million (2014 rand value). This is made up of R 185 million for construction costs (materials, wages and professional fees etc.), R 15 million for furniture and fittings, R 6 million for lodge vehicles, R 45 million for utilities and R 31.5 million attributed to the promoter's contribution (Secprop, 2015). In terms of business opportunities for local companies, expenditure during the construction phase will create business opportunities for the regional and local economy. Implementing the enhancement measures listed below can enhance these opportunities. The sector of the local economy that is most likely to benefit from the proposed development is the local building industry and the service sector. The potential opportunities for building sector would be linked to the supply of building materials for the construction phase. The benefits for the local service sector would be linked to accommodation, catering, cleaning, transport and security, etc. associated with the construction workers employed during the construction phase. A percentage of the total R 22 million wage bill will be spent in the local economy which will also create opportunities for local businesses in Malalane and Mbombela.

The implementation of the proposed enhancement measures listed below would also enable the establishment of the proposed lodge to support co-operation between the public and private sectors, which would support local economic development in the NLM.

The hospitality industry in the area is also likely to benefit from the provision of accommodation and meals for professionals (engineers, quantity surveyors, project managers, product representatives etc.) and other (non-construction) personnel involved on the project. Experience from other construction projects indicates that the potential opportunities are not limited to on-site construction workers but also to consultants and product representatives associated with the project.

The establishment of the proposed development was supported by the NLM IDP and LED managers and by the representatives from the EDM Department of Local Economic Development and Tourism. The meetings with the NLM and EDM were held on 20 and 23 January 2015 respectively. At the meeting with the Malalane Chamber of Commerce held on 22 January 2015, a number of members, specifically the members involved in the building and construction sector, also voiced their support for the proposed development. The list of people who attended the meetings held as part of the SIA is included in Annexure A.
Table 4.1: Creation of employment and business opportunities during the construction phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Creation of employment and business opportunities during the construction phase</th>
<th>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>Low-Medium (2)</td>
<td>Low-Medium (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Very Short Term (1)</td>
<td>Very Short Term (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnitude</td>
<td>Moderate (6)</td>
<td>Moderate (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Probable (3)</td>
<td>Highly probable (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Low (27)</td>
<td>Moderate (40)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversibility</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can impact be enhanced?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Enhancement:** See below

**Cumulative impacts:** Opportunity to up-grade and improve skills levels in the area.

**Residual impacts:** Improved pool of skills and experience in the local area.

**Assessment of No Go option**

There is no impact, as the current status quo will be maintained. The potential employment and economic benefits associated with the construction of the proposed lodge would however be forgone. The potential opportunity costs in terms of local capital expenditure, employment, skills development and opportunities for local business are therefore regarded as a negative. Potential opportunity costs would be greatest with regards to local employment provision and opportunities for the local service sector.

**Recommended enhancement measures**

In order to enhance local employment and business opportunities associated with the construction phase the following measures should be implemented:

**Employment**

- Where reasonable and practical, the proponent should appoint local contractors and implement a ‘locals first’ policy, especially for semi and low-skilled job categories. However, due to the low skills levels in the area, the majority of skilled posts are likely to be filled by people from outside the area.
- Where feasible, efforts should be made to employ local contractors that are compliant with Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) criteria. In this regard the Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement with SANParks requires the proponents to implement a Preferential Procurement Policy with the objective of ensuring that proposed development supports the objectives of Black Economic Empowerment (BEE);
- Before the construction phase commences the proponent should meet with representatives from the NLM to establish the existence of a skills database for the area. If such as database exists it should be made available to the contractors appointed for the construction phase.
• The local authorities, community representatives, and organisations on the interested and affected party database should be informed of the final decision regarding the project and the potential job opportunities for locals and the employment procedures that the proponent intends following for the construction phase of the project.
• Where feasible, training and skills development programmes for locals should be initiated prior to the initiation of the construction phase.
• The recruitment selection process should seek to promote gender equality and the employment of women wherever possible.

Business
• The proponent should liaise with the NLM with regards the establishment of a database of local companies, specifically BBBEE companies, which qualify as potential service providers (e.g. construction companies, catering companies, waste collection companies, security companies etc.) prior to the commencement of the tender process for construction contractors. These companies should be notified of the tender process and invited to bid for project-related work;
• Where possible, the proponent should assist local BBBEE companies to complete and submit the required tender forms and associated information;
• The NLM, in conjunction with the local business sector and representatives from the local hospitality industry, should identify strategies aimed at maximising the potential benefits associated with the project.

Note that while preference to local employees and companies is recommended, it is recognised that a competitive tender process may not guarantee the employment of local labour for the construction phase.

4.3.2 Impact of construction workers on local communities

The presence of construction workers poses a potential risk to family structures and social networks. While the presence of construction workers does not in itself constitute a social impact, the manner in which construction workers conduct themselves can impact on local communities. The most significant negative impact is associated with the disruption of existing family structures and social networks. This risk is linked to potentially risky behaviour, mainly of male construction workers, including:

• An increase in alcohol and drug use;
• An increase in crime levels;
• The loss of girlfriends and/or wives to construction workers;
• An increase in teenage and unwanted pregnancies;
• An increase in prostitution;
• An increase in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV.

The potential risk to local residents in the area will be mitigated by a commitment from the proponent’s to the implementation of a local employment policy, specifically for the low and semi-skilled employment opportunities associated with the construction phase. As indicated above, the majority of the low skilled (91) and semi-skilled (26) work opportunities are likely to benefit members from the local community. Employing members from the local community to fill the low and medium skilled job categories will reduce the risk and mitigate the potential impacts on the local communities. These workers will be from the local community and form part of the local family and social network and, as such, the potential impact will be low. The use of local residents to fill the low and medium skilled job categories will also reduce the need to provide accommodation for construction workers in Malalane. In this regard, with the exception
of security staff, no construction personnel will be accommodated on the site. The majority of the non-local skilled workers (13) are likely to be accommodated in hotels and guest-houses in Malalane.

While the risks associated with construction workers at a community level will be low, at an individual and family level they may be significant, especially in the case of contracting a sexually transmitted disease or an unplanned pregnancy. However, given the nature of construction projects it is not possible to totally avoid these potential impacts at an individual or family level.

Table 4.2: Assessment of impact of the presence of construction workers in the area on local communities

| Nature: Potential impacts on family structures and social networks associated with the presence of construction workers |
|---|---|
| **Without Mitigation / Enhancement** | **With Mitigation / Enhancement** |
| **Extent** | Medium (3) | Low (2) |
| **Duration** | Vary Short Term for community as a whole (1) Long term-permanent for individuals affected by STDs etc. (5) | Vary Short Term for community as a whole (1) Long term-permanent for individuals affected by STDs etc. (5) |
| **Magnitude** | Low for community as a whole (4) Very High for specific individuals affected by STDs etc. (10) | Low for community as a whole (4) High-Very High for specific individuals affected by STDs etc. (10) |
| **Probability** | Probable (3) | Probable (3) |
| **Significance** | Low for community as a whole (21) Moderate-High for specific individuals affected by STDs etc. (54) | Low for community as a whole (21) Moderate-High for specific individuals affected by STDs etc. (51) |
| **Status** | Negative | Negative |
| **Reversibility** | No in case of HIV and AIDS | No in case of HIV and AIDS |
| **Irreplaceable loss of resources?** | Yes, if people contract HIV/AIDS. Human capital plays a critical role in communities that rely on farming for their livelihoods | |
| **Can impact be mitigated?** | Yes, to some degree. However, the risk cannot be eliminated | |
| **Mitigation:** | See below | |
| **Cumulative impacts:** | Impacts on family and community relations that may, in some cases, persist for a long period of time. Also in cases where unplanned / unwanted pregnancies occur or members of the community are infected by an STD, specifically HIV and or AIDS, the impacts may be permanent and have long term to permanent cumulative impacts on the affected individuals and/or their families and the community. | |
| **Residual impacts:** | See cumulative impacts. | |

**Assessment of No Go option**

There is no impact as the current status quo would be maintained. The potential positive impacts on the local economy associated with the additional spending by construction workers in the local economy will also be lost.
**Recommended mitigation measures**

The potential risks associated with construction workers can be mitigated. The detailed mitigation measures should be outlined in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Construction Phase. Aspects that should be covered include:

- Where possible, the proponent should make it a requirement for contractors to implement a 'locals first' policy for construction jobs, specifically for semi and low-skilled job categories;
- The proponent should consider the option of establishing a Monitoring Forum (MF) in order to monitor the construction phase and the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures. The MF should be established before the construction phase commences, and should include key stakeholders, including representatives from local communities, councillors, and the contractor(s). The MF should also be briefed on the potential risks to the local community associated with construction workers;
- The proponent and the contractor(s) should, in consultation with representatives from the MF, develop a code of conduct for the construction phase. The code should identify which types of behaviour and activities are not acceptable. Construction workers in breach of the code should be dismissed. All dismissals must comply with the South African labour legislation;
- The proponent and the contractor should implement an HIV/AIDS awareness programme for all construction workers at the outset of the construction phase;
- Where necessary, the contractors should make the necessary arrangements to enable low and semi-skilled workers from outside the area to return home over weekends and/or on a regular basis. This would reduce the risk posed to local family structures and social networks;
- It is recommended that no construction workers, with the exception of security personnel, should be permitted to stay over-night on the site.

**4.3.3 Increased risk of poaching**

The presence of and movement of construction workers on and off the site poses a potential risk to wildlife in the Kruger National Park and creates an opportunity for poaching. Waste generated during the construction phase, specifically plastic waste also poses a threat to wildlife, especially if it is ingested.

The increase in rhino poaching in the Kruger National Park in recent years is a major concern. In this regard the number of rhino poached in the Kruger National Park increased from 146 in 2010 to 672 in 2014 ([http://wessa.org.za/get-involved/rhino-initiative/current-rhino-poaching-stats.htm](http://wessa.org.za/get-involved/rhino-initiative/current-rhino-poaching-stats.htm)). The potential risk of poaching can however be mitigated by careful planning and managing the movement of construction on the site workers during the construction phase.
Table 4.3: Assessment of risk to wildlife

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Potential risk to wildlife associated with the presence of construction workers on site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magnitude</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Probability</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reversibility</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can impact be mitigated?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mitigation:** See below

**Cumulative impacts:** Loss of key species, such as a rhino

**Residual impacts:** See cumulative impacts.

**Assessment of No-Go option**

There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo.

**Recommended mitigation measures**

Key mitigation measures include:

- All vehicles leaving and entering the site should be searched on a daily basis by staff from Kruger National Park and or the Environmental Control Officer (ECO);
- The contractor should provide daily transport to and from the site. The use of private vehicles should be limited. All vehicles should be fitted with GPS units to enable speed and routes to be monitored by the ECO in conjunction with staff from Kruger National Park. A system of fines should be implemented for vehicles that exceed the speed limits and do not use designated routes. This would reduce the potential risk of poaching;
- The movement of all construction staff on the site must be controlled and monitored by staff from Kruger National Park and or the Environmental Control Officer (ECO). The option of fencing off the construction area prior to the commencement of the construction phase should be investigated. The movement of construction workers on the site should be confined to the fenced off area;
- The contractor should enter into an agreement with the Kruger National Park whereby the loss of wildlife during the construction phase will be compensated for. The agreement should be signed before the construction phase commences;
- The contractor must ensure that construction workers found guilty of poaching are dismissed and charged. All dismissals must be in accordance with South African labour legislation;
- The contractors must ensure that all workers are informed at the outset of the construction phase of the consequences of poaching;
• The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) must outline procedures for managing and storing waste on site, specifically plastic waste that poses a threat to wildlife if ingested;
• The housing of construction workers on the site should be limited to security personnel.

4.3.4 Increased risk of veld fires

The potential risk of veld fires in the area is regarded as high, especially during the dry, winter months from May-September. The presence of construction workers and construction-related activities on the site will pose an increased risk of veld fires that would, in turn, pose a threat to wildlife and visitors in the Kruger National Park. A large veld fire would also pose potential risk to other lodges in the area, such as the Lukimbi Lodge. A large grass fire would also reduce the number of visitors to the area affected by the fire. The potential risk can be reduced by implementing the mitigation measures listed below.

Table 4.4: Assessment of impact of increased risk of veld fires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Potential loss of wildlife and grazing and potential impact on other lodges</th>
<th>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>Medium (3)</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Very Short Term (1)</td>
<td>Very Short Term (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnitude</td>
<td>Very High (10)</td>
<td>Low (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Highly Probable (4)</td>
<td>Probable (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Medium (56)</td>
<td>Low (24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversibility</td>
<td>No, loss of wildlife permanent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can impact be mitigated?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mitigation: See below

Cumulative impacts: No, provided losses are compensated for.

Residual impacts: See cumulative impacts.

Assessment of No-Go option
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo.

Recommended mitigation measures
The mitigation measures include:

• No open fires and or smoking should be permitted on the site;
• The contractor should ensure that construction related activities that pose a potential fire risk, such as welding, are properly managed and are confined to areas where the
risk of fires has been reduced. Measures to reduce the risk of fires include avoiding working in high wind conditions when the risk of fires is greater;

- The contractor must provide adequate fire fighting equipment on-site, including a fire fighting vehicle. The adequacy of the firefighting equipment should be verified by representatives from the Kruger National Park;
- The contractor to provide fire-fighting training to selected construction staff;
- No construction staff, with the exception of security staff, should be accommodated on site over night;
- In the event of a fire being caused by construction workers and or construction activities, the appointed contractors must compensate SANParks and private lodge owners for any damage caused by the fire. The contractor should bear the costs associated with fighting the fire.

4.3.5 Impacts associated with construction vehicles

The movement of heavy construction vehicles during the construction phase has the potential to damage roads and create noise, dust, and safety impacts for visitors to the Kruger National Park. Access to the site will be via either the S114 and or S121 gravel roads that link up to the H3. Based on observations during the site visit the S114 is prone to flooding. The movement of heavy vehicles along the road is likely to result in further damage, which in turn will impact on visitors using the S114. The movement of heavy vehicles along the S121 is also likely to impact on the quality of the road for visitors to the Kruger National Park. The movement of construction vehicles along the S114 also has the potential to create noise and dust impacts for the residents of Leopard Creek. The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge does include proposals to up-grade sections of the S114 and to realign a 3km stretch, which currently traverses the proposed lodge site.

The movement of construction vehicles also has the potential to create congestion at the Malalane Gate, which would result in delays for park visitors.

Table 4.5: Assessment of the impacts associated with construction vehicles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Potential impacts (noise, dust, safety and damage to road surface) and congestion and Malalane Gate associated with movement of construction related traffic to and from the site</th>
<th>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Short Term (2)(^1)</td>
<td>Very Short Term (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnitude</td>
<td>Moderate (6)</td>
<td>Minor (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Highly Probable (4)</td>
<td>Probable (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Moderate (40)</td>
<td>Low (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversibility</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can impact be mitigated?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) If damage to road surface is not repaired
Mitigation: See below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative impacts:</th>
<th>If damage to roads is not repaired then this will impact on other road users and result in higher maintenance costs for vehicles. The costs will be borne by road users who were not responsible for the damage.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residual impacts:</td>
<td>See cumulative impacts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment of No-Go option
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo.

Recommended mitigation measures
The potential impacts associated with heavy vehicles can be effectively mitigated. The mitigation measures include:

- The movement of heavy vehicles associated with the construction phase should be timed to avoid holiday periods, long weekends and weekends. This will reduce the potential for impacting on visitors to the Kruger National Park;
- The most acceptable access access route/s (S114 and or S121) should be identified in consultation with representatives from the Kruger National Park;
- All vehicles should be fitted with GPS units to enable speed and routes to be monitored by the ECO in conjunction with staff from Kruger National Park. A system of fines should be implemented for vehicles that exceed the speed limits and do not use designated routes;
- The movement of heavy vehicles associated with the construction phase should be planned to avoid times when visitors to the Kruger National Park are more likely to use the S114 and S121, such as early mornings and late afternoons. The gates in the Kruger National Park open at 05.30 and 06:00 in summer and winter respectively. The movement of heavy construction vehicles accessing the site should be timed to enter the Malalane gate at 08:00 so to reduce the potential impact on visitors on early morning game drives. In the afternoons the gates close at 18:30 and 17:30 in in summer and winter respectively. The movement of heavy construction vehicles leaving the site should be timed to exit the Malalane Gate at 16h00 so to reduce the potential impact on visitors on late afternoon game drives;
- The contractor should, in consultation with representatives from the Kruger National Park, prepare a plan and timetable for deliveries. The timetable should take into account the recommendations contained in the SIA and EIA;
- The contractor must ensure that damage caused by construction related traffic to the S114 and S121 is repaired before the completion of the construction phase. The costs associated with the repair must be borne by the contractor;
- Dust suppression measures must be implemented such as wetting of the S114 and or S121, on a regular basis and ensuring that vehicles used to transport sand and building materials are fitted with tarpaulins or covers;
- All vehicles must be road-worthy and drivers must be qualified and made aware of the potential road safety issues and need for strict speed limits (50km on surfaced road and 40km on gravel road in the Kruger National Park).
4.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE SOCIAL IMPACTS

The following key social issues are of relevance to the operational phase:

Potential positive impacts
- Creation of employment and business opportunities. The operational phase will also create opportunities for skills development and training;
- Creation of opportunities for local SMMEs;
- Benefits associated with the establishment of a Community Trust;
- The establishment of a new tourism destination in the Kruger National Park.

Potential negative impacts
- Impact on existing tourism operators;
- Impacts associated with the Park and Ride and 24 access to the Kruger National Park;
- Impact on adjacent land uses and activities.

4.4.1 Creation of employment and business opportunities and support for local economic development

Based on information provided by Malelane Safari Resort Investments (Pty) Ltd the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge will create in the region of 250-280 permanent employment opportunities during the operational phase. This total is made up of 244 employment opportunities associated with the safari lodge, 4 with the management of the property (gardeners and maintenance) and 34 associated with guest experiences (game and tour guides, vehicle maintenance, training and development, community liaison officer etc.). Of this total approximately 80% of the opportunities will be low and semi-skilled positions. The majority of employment opportunities associated with the operational phase is likely to benefit HD members of the community. An additional 20 seasonal employment opportunities will also be created during peak holiday periods, such as long weekends and school holidays.

It will also be possible to increase the number of local employment opportunities through the implementation of a skills development and training programme linked to the operational phase. Such a programme would support the strategic goals of promoting local employment and skills development contained in the NLM IDP. Mr Peter Wright, the CEO of Melelane Safari Resort Investments indicated that the South African Safari Lodge Foundation represented by Lindy Rodwell van Hasselt has been appointed by the proponent to identify potential candidates from the local community who can be trained as a new tourism destination in the Kruger National Park.

Given the location of the proposed facility, the majority of local permanent staff is likely to reside in Malalane and the surrounding communities. Non-local permanent staff is likely to look for accommodation in Malalane. In terms of accommodation options, a percentage of the non-local permanent employees may purchase houses in one of these towns, while others may decide to rent. Both options would represent a positive economic benefit for the region. Based on comments from Suzette van Staden of Pam Golding (pers. Comm, January 2015), there is a shortage of accommodation in Malalane. Some non-local employees may therefore find it difficult to find accommodation in Malalane.

In addition, a percentage of the monthly wage bill earned by permanent staff would be spent in the regional and local economy, which will benefit local businesses in the NLM and EDM.
The proposed development will also create opportunities for the local service sector in Malalane, including food and beverage suppliers, cleaning and maintenance companies, security companies, and transport companies. These potential opportunities are discussed under Section 4.4.2, Opportunities for local small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs).

As indicated above, the establishment of the proposed development was supported by the NLM IDP and LED managers and by the representatives from the EDM Department of Local Economic Development and Tourism.

**Table 4.6: Impact assessment of employment and business creation opportunities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Creation of employment and business opportunities associated with the operational phase</th>
<th>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>Medium (3)</td>
<td>Medium (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Long Term (4)</td>
<td>Long Term (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnitude</td>
<td>Moderate (6)</td>
<td>High (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Highly Probable (4)</td>
<td>Highly Probable (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Moderate (52)</td>
<td>High (60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversibility</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can impact be enhanced?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Enhancement:** See below

**Cumulative impacts:** Creation of permanent employment and skills and development opportunities for members from the local community and creation of additional business and economic opportunities in the area

**Residual impacts:** See cumulative impacts

**Assessment of No-Go option**

There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo. However, the potential opportunity costs in terms of the loss of employment and skills and development training would be lost which would also represent a negative impact.

**Recommended enhancement measures**

The enhancement measures listed in Section 4.4.1, i.e. to enhance local employment and business opportunities during the construction phase, also apply to the operational phase. In addition the proponent has indicated that they are committed to implementing a training and skills development programme for the duration of the operating period. The programme will seek to maximise the number of locals that benefit from the programme.
4.4.2 Creation of opportunities for local SMMEs

The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge will create a number of potential opportunities for local individuals and SMMEs. In this regard the proposed lodge will create opportunities for the local service sector in Malalane. The key sectors likely to benefit from the development include food and beverage suppliers, cleaning and maintenance companies, security companies, and transport companies. In terms of Private Public Partnership (PPP) agreement the development can only provide 10 beds for on-site staff. The rest of the staff must be accommodated outside of the Kruger National Park. The majority of the permanent staff will therefore need to be transported to and from the site on a daily basis.

The lodge will also create opportunities for local community members involved in arts and crafts. These opportunities will be linked to the opportunity to sell local arts and crafts to visitors staying at the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. This will support the efforts of the SANParks to create opportunities for local communities living in the vicinity of the Kruger National Park to benefit from the activities that take place in the park.

The PPP agreement with SANparks also requires the proponent to implement a Preferential Procurement Policy with the objective of ensuring that proposed development supports the objectives of Black Economic Empowerment (BEE).

Table 4.7: Assessment of opportunities for local SMMEs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Creation of business opportunities for local SMMEs associated with the operational phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can impact be enhanced?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enhancement: See below

Cumulative impacts: Promotion of social and economic development and improvement in the overall well-being of the community

Residual impacts: See cumulative impacts

Assessment of No-Go option
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo. However, the potential opportunity costs in terms of the supporting the social and economic development in the area would be lost. This would also represent a negative impact.
Recommended enhancement measures
The enhancement measures listed in Section 4.4.1, i.e. to enhance local employment and business opportunities during the construction phase, also apply to the support for development of local SMMEs.

4.4.3 Benefits associated with the establishment of Community Trust

A Community Trust, The Cradle of Malelane Hotel Employees and Community Trust, will be established as required in terms of the PPP agreement with SANParks. Under Section 4, Purpose of the Trust, the PPP indicates that the purpose of the trust is to motivate, reward, and empower potential beneficiaries by financing the purchase by some of them of shares in the company, and to borrow funds to enable the trust to undertake the financing method. The name of the trust (The Cradle of Malelane Hotel Employees and Community Trust) implies that the employees at the Malelane Safari Lodge will be beneficiaries of the trust.

The funding structure for the development will only be finalised after the completion of the Basic Environmental Assessment, in 2015. However, all parties have committed to the following shareholding in Malelane Safari Resort Investments (Pty) Ltd:

- 13.5% held by Community Trust, financed by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Public Investment Corporation Ltd. (PIC);
- 20.0% held by BEE shareholder - Siyazi Management Consultants, owned by Senzo Tsabadze, funded mostly by internal resources, with assistance from the IDC;
- 20% held by the Operator Carlson Rezidor Hotels, which will be funded 50% by its shareholder, the Danish Fund for Developing Countries ("IFU") and 50% by AfriNord Bank Ltd, which has been formed to finance the expansion of Carlson Rezidor Hotels in Africa. The shares will be held by Carlson Rezidor's South African subsidiary, RHW Joint Venture Ltd;
- 26.5% held by the Promoters of MSRI, which comprises Secprop 118 Investments (Pty.) Ltd and Cradle of Man Ltd.
- 20.0% held by the Public Investment Corporation Ltd. - with the objective of transferring the shares to the Community Trust in future.

The Community Trust has the potential to generate revenue stream that, in turn, can be used to benefit the members of the trust. Experience has, however, also shown that Community Trusts can be mismanaged. This issue will need to be addressed in order to maximise the potential benefits associated with the establishment of a Community Trust.

The success of the trust will also be dependent upon the financial success of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. Based on the information provided by Malelane Safari Resort Investments (Pty) Ltd, they and SANParks are confident that the proposed development will be financially successful. This is based on market research undertaken by SANParks, Secprop Leisure and Carlson Rezidor. The findings of this research indicate that there is a demand for a four star resort facility located in the Kruger National Park that caters for foreign and domestic market, and caters for both emerging middle class tourists and business. However, despite this there are still potential risks associated with the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge that lie outside of the proponents control, such as the financial stability of the local and global economy. However, it is assumed that these risks were taken into consideration by the IDC when evaluating the request for funding.
Table 4.8: Assessment of benefits associated with establishment of a community trust

| Nature: Benefits associated with the dividends paid to the Community Trust |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| **Without Mitigation / Enhancement** | **With Mitigation / Enhancement** |
| Extent                          | Local (2)                        | Medium (3)                      |
| Duration                        | Long Term (4)                    | Long Term (4)                   |
| Magnitude                       | Low (4)                          | Low (4)                         |
| Probability                     | Probable (3)                     | Highly Probable (4)             |
| Significance                    | Low (30)                         | Moderate (44)                   |
| Status                          | Positive                         | Positive                        |
| Reversibility                   | N/A                              |                                 |
| Irreplaceable loss of resources? | No                               |                                 |
| Can impact be enhanced?         | Yes                              |                                 |

Enhancement: See below

Cumulative impacts: Creation of wealth and opportunities for trustees and beneficiaries of the trust

Residual impacts: See cumulative impacts

Assessment of No-Go option
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo. However, the potential opportunity costs in terms of the supporting the social and economic development in the area would be lost. This would also represent a negative impact.

Recommended enhancement measures
In order to maximise the benefits and minimise the potential for corruption and misappropriation of funds the following measures should be implemented:

- Clarity should be provided regarding the criteria for identifying members and beneficiaries of the Community Trust;
- Strict financial management controls, including annual audits, should be instituted to manage the Community Trust.

4.4.4 Establishment of a new tourist destination in the Kruger National Park

The Kruger National Park is one of the world’s most popular public entry game parks and receives in the region of 1.3 million visitors per year. In terms of facilities SANParks offer a variety of tourist accommodation options and currently have 12 main rest camps, five bushveld camps, two bush lodges and four satellite camps, which, in total, provide ~ 4 100 beds (depending on maintenance, upgrades and various other circumstances) (Kruger National Park Management Plan, 2008). In addition seven luxury lodges have been granted 20 year concessions.

\(^2\) Benefits largely limited to trustees
A number of individuals and organisations are opposed to the establishment of hotels in the Kruger National Park, such as Against Interference in Kruger Our Nature Asset (AIKONA) and Africa Wild amongst others. However, as indicated in Section 1.6.1, Assumptions, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs approved the Kruger National Park Revised Zonation Plan on 26 June 2013. The Revised Zonation Plan makes provision for the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The development opportunities associated with the PDZ include the development of accommodation facilities such as the proposed lodge. The establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is therefore in keeping with the policy of SANParks for the Kruger National Park.

As indicated above, SANParks and the proposed developers and operators are confident that the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge will be financially successful. This is based on market research undertaken by SANParks, Secprop Leisure and Carlson Rezidor. The findings of this research indicate that there is a demand for a four star resort facility located in the Kruger National Park that caters for foreign and domestic market, and caters for both emerging middle class tourists and business. The establishment of a new tourism destination in the Kruger National Park will increase the number of beds in the park. The proposed development will also provide an alternative to the existing accommodation options available in the park, thereby appealing to a different sector of the market.

The involvement of the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group as the operators also provides the development with an international hotel operator with an established track record. The involvement of Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group is also likely to create opportunities to market the lodge overseas. This in turn will benefit tourism in South Africa, the Kruger National Park and the local area. The Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group is an international hotel company, with headquarters in Minneapolis and Brussels, Belgium. The group includes more than 1 300 hotels in operation and under development in over 100 countries, and employs over 88 000 staff. The hotel brands include Radisson Hotels, Radisson Blu, Country Inns & Suites, Park Inns, Park Plaza Hotels & Resorts and Hotel Missoni.

The representatives from Leopard Creek Golf Estate indicated that the proposed development would create potential opportunities and benefits for the Leopard Creek by providing quality accommodation for potential visitors, specifically during the Alfred Dunhill Championship held in December (Derek Muggeridge, pers comm. January 2015). There is currently insufficient accommodation available in the Malalane area and visitors have to be accommodated in Mbombela (Nelspruit).

The establishment of a Conference Centre and Wellness Centre will is also likely to create opportunities for diversifying the type of visitors that currently use the Kruger National Park. The majority of business conferences are held during the week, which would enable the proposed facility to increase its occupancy rates. Concerns were raised by the manager of the Pestana Lodge, Mr Simon Rowson that the lodge and the associated conference facility would impact on the operations of the Pestana Lodge. This is discussed in more detail below.
Table 4.9: Establishment of a new tourism facility within the Kruger National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Establishment of a new tourism facility within the Kruger National Park</th>
<th>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>Medium (3)</td>
<td>Medium-National (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>Long Term (4)</td>
<td>Long Term (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magnitude</strong></td>
<td>Moderate (6)</td>
<td>Moderate (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Probability</strong></td>
<td>Probable (3)</td>
<td>Highly Probable (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significance</strong></td>
<td>Moderate (39)</td>
<td>Moderate (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reversibility</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</strong></td>
<td>Yes, linked to impact of footprint of development. However, lodge is located in PDZ</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can impact be enhanced?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Enhancement:** See below

**Cumulative impacts:** Increased number of visitors to South Africa, Kruger National Park and local area

**Residual impacts:** Within Kruger National Park the potential negative residual impacts associated with more visitors would be limited as long as park is well managed

**Assessment of No-Go option**
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo. However, the potential opportunity costs in terms of the supporting the social and economic development in the area would be lost. This would also represent a negative impact.

**Recommended mitigation measures**
The key findings of the BAR and associated specialist studies should be implemented.

### 4.4.5 Impact on existing tourist operations

The existing tourist operations that stand to be most affected by the proposed Malalane Safari Lodge include the Pestana Kruger Lodge, which is located on the east bank of the Crocodile River adjacent to the Melalane Bridge, Jocks Safari Lodge and the Lukimbi Safari Lodge. The Pestana Lodge has a total of 74 rooms and can accommodate 182 guests. The lodge creates employment for 94 people. This includes 54 permanent staff and 6 casual staff. The lodge also has conference facilities and caters for weddings and similar activities. The conference area consists of 4 conference rooms, the largest of which accommodate up to 150 delegates. In addition the lodge has a health spa and also provides open vehicle safari’s into the Kruger Park for its guests (Pestana Lodge [http://www.sa-venues.com/visit/pestanakrugerlodge](http://www.sa-venues.com/visit/pestanakrugerlodge/)).

The Lukimbi Safari Lodge is located adjacent to the Lwakahle River, approximately 18 km north east of the proposed Malelane Safari Resort. The lodge consists of 16 luxury suites with private decks and river views. Access to the lodge is via the H3 and S 114, which also provides access to the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. Access can also be gained via the H3 and S118. The Jock Safari Lodge is located on the southern bank of
the Biyamiti River and consists of 12 luxury suites (Photograph 1.14). The lodge is located ~ 25 km north of the proposed Malelane Safari Resort. Access the lodge is via the H3. Both lodge’s offers guests guided walking tours and bush drives within their associated concession areas. The Jock Safari Lodge employs ~ 55 permanent staff, of which 14 live on site. The remaining 41 staff members work two shifts and are transported to and from the lodge on a daily basis from Malalane. The Lukimbi Lodge employs a similar number of permanent employees.

The key concerns raised by the manager of the Pestana Lodge is that the proposed Malalane Safari Lodge will, by virtue of its location within the Kruger National Park, provide an attractive alternative for visitors who would have traditionally stayed at the Pestana Lodge (Simon Rowson, pers.comm. January 2015). The potential impact was likely to be exacerbated by the 24 hour access associated with the Park and Ride.

The conference and wellness facilities will also compete with the Pestana Lodge. The impact on the Pestana Lodge would in turn result in job losses. Mr Rowson also indicated that the Pestana Lodge had plans to add an additional 100 rooms and that this would have to be re-evaluated if the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge was established.

The key concerns raised by the manager of Jock Safari Lodge were similar, in that the proposed Malalane Safari Lodge, by virtue of its location within the Kruger National Park, may provide an attractive alternative for visitors who would have traditionally stayed at the Jock Safari Lodge (Louis Strauss, pers.comm. January 2015). In addition, the night drives provided by the Malelane Safari Lodge would increase the volume of vehicles on the roads in the southern section of the Kruger National Park, which, in turn, would potentially impact on the exclusiveness of the experience of the guests staying at Jocks. The same concerns are likely to apply to the Lukimbi Lodge. Given the location of the Lukimbi Lodge the potential for more traffic during night rides is likely to be higher. However, in both cases the impact would only apply to areas located outside the concession areas for both the Jock Safari and Lukimbi Lodges. Guests from the Malelane Safari Lodge would not be permitted to enter the private concession areas.

The manager of the Pestana Lodge and Jock Safari Lodge both indicated that the potential impact on the existing operations was exacerbated by the current financial conditions post the 2008 financial crisis.

However, the owners of the Rio Vista Lodge indicated that the establishment of a four star hotel in the Kruger National Park near the Malalane Gate would attract more visitors to the area and that would benefit the local economy (Anita and Shaun Brodell, pers.comm. January 2015). A number of members of the Malalane Chamber of Business expressed the same view. As indicated above, the representatives from Leopard Creek also indicated that the establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge would benefit the area and the local economy. These benefits may also accrue to the Pestana Lodge. The proposed N4 bypass was, however, raised as a concern. The owners of the Rio Vista Lodge and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce indicated that tourism sector would need to be developed in order to reduce potential impacts that the proposed by-pass would have on the town. The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge had the potential to support the tourism sector in the area and the town (Anita and Shaun Brodell, pers.comm. January 2015).

While the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge does have the potential to impact on the Pestana Lodge, within a free market economy developers have the right to establish facilities that provide competition and create choices for consumers. Likewise, the
owners of the Pestana Lodge have the right to reduce their rates or offer special
discounts that would potential impact on the Malelane Safari Lodge. In terms of
assessing the potential impact, there are a number of other variables that are unrelated
to the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge that could also impact on the Pestana Lodge,
including the state of the global and South African economy, the interest and rand
exchange rate, crime levels in South Africa and political changes. All of these have the
tempotential to either impact positively or negatively on the tourism sector in South Africa,
including the Pestana Lodge and the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. Future population
growth both in South Africa and overseas is also likely to create additional demand for
tourism related facilities, especially in areas such as the Kruger National Park. This
would benefit both existing and future developments located both within and in the
vicinity of the park. Therefore, any assessment of the proposed impact of the Malelane
Safari Lodge on the Pestana Lodge and, for that matter other tourism operations in the
area, is unlikely to be definitive.

In the case of the Jock Safari and Lukimbi Lodges, the market they cater for is more
exclusive and discerning. The patrons who can afford to pay the rates charged by the
Jock Safari and Lukimbi Lodge expect the level of service that these establishments
provide. They are also paying for the exclusiveness associated with these small luxury
lodges. These patrons are unlikely to want to stay at a 240 bed facility, such as the
proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. The impact on these establishments is therefore likely
to be limited.

Table 4.10: Potential impact on existing tourism operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Potential loss of impact on existing tourism operations and associated loss of jobs</th>
<th>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>Medium (3)</td>
<td>Medium (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Long Term (4)</td>
<td>Long Term (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnitude</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Probable (3)</td>
<td>Probable (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Low (27)</td>
<td>Low (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Negative and or Positive</td>
<td>Negative and or Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversibility</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can impact be mitigated/ enhanced?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mitigation: See below

Cumulative impacts: Impact on existing tourism operations (potential negative and or positive cumulative impact)

Residual impacts: See cumulative impacts.

Assessment of No-Go option
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo.
Recommended mitigation measures
There are no recommendations and/or enhancement measures.

4.4.6 Impact of 24 access to the Kruger National Park associated with Park and Ride

As indicated the proposed development includes the establishment of a ‘Park-and-Ride’ facility located next to the Malalane Gate (south west of the existing staff housing). The Park and Ride facility will provide 24 hour access to the site via a shuttle service and will be developed as a partnership between the proposed lodge and the Kruger National Park. The Park and Ride concept is one that has been adopted at other gates in the southern region of the Kruger Park as part of a SANParks strategy to cater for the increased demand for day visitor access to the Kruger at peak periods such as long weekends and public holidays. However, none of the existing Park and Ride operations provide 24 hour access. The decision to permit 24 hour access to the Malelane Safari Lodge was taken by SANParks prior to the issuing of the tender process and is incorporated in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Agreement that the developer signed with SANParks.

The rationale for providing 24 hour access provided by SANParks was to enable the Malelane Safari Lodge to fill the gap in the market that was previously provided by the Malelane Sun. In doing so the aim is to enable guests to access facilities outside of the Kruger National Park, such as the Leopard Creek Golf Course, and still be able to return to the park in the evening. The 24 hour access also caters for late arrivals. SANParks indicated that access will be strictly controlled and that transfers to and from the Park and Ride facility located next to the Malalane Gate will be via a shuttle service. No private vehicles will be permitted to travel on parks roads outside of the existing park hours. SANParks also indicated that it is envisaged that the shuttle service will only be available up until 22h00. Special arrangements will be made for arrivals after 22h00.

SANParks also indicated that 24 hour access is limited to the Malelane Safari Lodge and will not be extended to current concessions in the Kruger National Park (Annemi van Jaarsveld, General Manager: Business Development Unit-Tourism Division, SANParks, e-mail, 11 February 2015)

A number of concerns were raised regarding the proposed Park and Ride facility, specifically the provision for 24 hour access. Current public access to the Kruger National Park is restricted to operating hours (05:30 / 06:00 and 18:00 / 17:30, summer and winter). The concerns regarding the 24 hour access associated with the Park and Ride include:

- Establishment of a precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park;
- Potential increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching in the Kruger National Park;
- Noise and light impacts for residents of the Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate;
- Increased risk of road kills due to increased vehicle traffic at night.

Precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park

Public access to all camps and facilities within the Kruger National Park, including concession areas, is restricted to existing park hours. For example, the proposed Skukuza Hotel will also be required to adhere to the existing park hours. The only
exceptions are for transport of employees from the private camps and SANParks facilities who do not overnight in the park. These staff members are required to leave the park by 12:00am.

As indicated above, the decision to permit 24 hour access to the Malelane Safari Lodge was taken prior to the issuing of the tender process and is incorporated in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement that the developer signed with SANParks. As indicated above, SANParks have indicated that 24 hour access will be limited to the Malelane Safari Lodge and will not be extended to current concessions in the Kruger. If this commitment is adhered to then the potential for creating a precedent is low. However, experience has shown that there is a risk once the rules are amended.

**Increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching, in Kruger National Park**

The number of rhino poached in the Kruger National Park increased from 146 in 2010 to 672 in 2014 (http://wessa.org.za/get-involved/rhino-initiative/current-rhino-poaching-stats.htm). The provision of 24 hour public access to the Kruger National Park does create the potential to increase the risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching, in the Kruger National Park. The potential risk is linked to the increased number of people accessing the park after normal operating hours and the increased number of staff travelling in the park after dark. A number of SANParks staff and staff from private concessions in the park have already been implicated in rhino poaching. The potential risk can be reduced by managing the Park and Ride facility and limiting access to 22h00 as suggested by SANParks.

**Noise and light impacts for residents of Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate**

Under the current operating hours for the park, the gate on the southern side of the Malalane Bridge is closed at 06h00 (summer) and 05h30 (winter). No public access is allowed onto the bridge until opening hours (05h30, summer and 06h00 hours, winter). By providing 24 hour access creates a situation where the Malalane Bridge would be open 24 hours a-day. The movement of cars along the bridge at night will create noise and light impacts for residents of houses located in Leopard Creek, the closest of which are located within 200 m of the bridge (see Photograph 1.7). All of the houses along the Crocodile River have decks that overlook the Crocodile River.

The movement of cars along the bridge at night will also impact on the guests at the Pestana Lodge, specifically the guests staying in the Deluxe Suites overlooking the Crocodile River and the Malalane Bridge (see Photograph 1.11). The movement of cars will also be visible from the main viewing deck of the Pestana Hotel (see Photograph 1.13).

The current sense of place of the area after the gate on the southern side of the Malalane Bridge has closed is one of a dark, quiet space associated with being located on the boundary of a large wilderness area. These are the qualities that attract visitors to the Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate. Providing 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park via the Malalane Bridge has the potential to impact on the current sense of place, which in turn will impact on the residents of Leopard Creek that have line of sight to the Malalane Bridge and the visitors to the Pestana Lodge. Due to the quiet night conditions the noise generated by movement of vehicles over the bridge is also likely to impact on residents of Leopard Creek who do not have direct line of sight of the bridge and visitors to the Pestana Lodge who’s rooms do not overlook the bridge.
The movement of shuttle traffic at night along the S114 will also create light and noise impacts for residents of Leopard Creek. Shuttles travelling along sections of the S114 within the Kruger Park, which provides access to the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge, will be visible from some of the residences located along the Crocodile River (see Photograph 1.8 and 1.9). Sections of the road are also visible from the Golf Course Club House (see Photograph 1.10). The light and noise from these vehicles at night will impact negatively on the areas sense of place and the experience of the residents of Leopard Creek.

The potential noise and light impacts do not only apply to guests accessing the hotel, but also to non-guests leaving the hotel following functions in the evening. The noise and light impacts associated with non-guests have the potential to be greater than those associated with guests, specifically the noise and light impacts associated with cars leaving the Kruger National Park and crossing the Malalane Bridge after normal park hours.

**Increased risk of road kills due to increased vehicle traffic at night**

The increased movement of shuttle vehicles on the roads within the Kruger National Park at night will increase the risk of road kills.

The findings of the SIA indicate that the establishment of 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park for the Malelane Safari Lodge will largely benefit the Malelane Safari Lodge. However, the costs or impacts will be borne by the Pestana Lodge and residents of Leopard Creek Golf Estate. The establishment of 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park also has the potential to increase the risk of poaching in the Kruger National Park and may create a precedent for existing and future facilities in the park, including SANParks facilities and private lodges. The establishment of 24 hour access also has the potential to result in negative cumulative impacts. These are discussed below.

In order to address these potential impacts a number of mitigation measures are recommended. These are listed below.

The establishment of the Park and Ride facility also creates an opportunity to address traffic congestion and delays at the Malalane Gate. Due to the limited parking available at the entrance to the Malalane Gate the queue of cars over long weekends and school holidays frequently extends back past the entrance to the Pestana Lodge. These delays not only impact on visitors accessing the Kruger National Park, but also on guests and residents of the Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate respectively.

It is recommended that SANParks consider using the Park and Ride facility to address the congestion problems that develop at the Malalane Gate.
Table 4.1: Impact of 24 hour road access associated with Park and Ride facility

| Nature: The impacts associated with establishment of a precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park, increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching, noise and light impacts for residents of Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate and increased risk of road kills due to increased vehicle traffic at night. |
|---|---|
| **Table 4.1** |  |
| **Impact of 24 hour road access associated with Park and Ride facility** |  |
| **Nature:** |  |
| The impacts associated with establishment of a precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park, increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching, noise and light impacts for residents of Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate and increased risk of road kills due to increased vehicle traffic at night. |  |
| **Table 4.1** |  |
| **Without Mitigation / Enhancement** | **With Mitigation / Enhancement** |
| **Extent** | Medium (3) to International (5)³ | Local (1) |
| **Duration** | Long term (4) | Long term (4) |
| **Magnitude** | High (8) | Minor (2) |
| **Probability** | Highly Probable (4) | Highly Probable (4) |
| **Significance** | High (60-68) | Low (28) |
| **Status** | Negative | Negative |
| **Reversibility** | Yes |  |
| **Irreplaceable loss of resources?** | Yes, if results in increase in rhino and or poaching of other endangered species |  |
| **Can impact be mitigated?** | Yes |  |
| **Mitigation:** | See below |  |
| **Cumulative impacts:** | Potential impact on rhino population and other wildlife in park due to increased risk of poaching, impact on sense of place |  |
| **Residual impacts:** | See cumulative impacts |  |

**Assessment of No-Go option**
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo.

**Recommended mitigation measures**
In order to reduce the potential risks and impacts associated with the proposed 24 hour access the following mitigation measures are recommended:

**Precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park**
- SANParks should adhere to its commitment that 24 hour access will be limited to the Malelane Safari Lodge and will not be extended to current concessions in the Kruger National Park.

**Increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching**
- Shuttles used to transfer guest to hotel from the Park and Ride facility must be fitted with GPS units to monitor routes and times;
- The registration number and name of the driver and passengers of all cars entering the Kruger National Park after normal operating hours must be recorded;
- Only guests with confirmed bookings at the Melelane Safari Lodge should be permitted to access the Kruger National Park after normal park hours.

³ Rating linked to international significance of rhino poaching
Noise and light impacts

- Only guests with confirmed bookings at the Malelane Safari Lodge should be permitted to access the Kruger National Park after normal park hours;
- Bookings must have been made during normal park hours on the day of arrival at the latest. Guests who attempt to book after normal park hours on the proposed day of arrival should be informed that they will not be able to access the Kruger National Park. This will reduce the risk of guests taking advantage of the 24 hour access facility provided for the hotel;
- As recommended by SANParks, access should be limited up until 22h00. Guests should be informed of this when booking;
- Access after 22h00 should only be permitted in the case of emergencies;
- Non-guests attending functions (conferences etc.) at the hotel should be required to leave the Kruger National Park by 22h00. This will assist to mitigate the noise and light impacts associated with cars leaving the Kruger National Park and crossing the Malalane Bridge after normal park hours;
- No access to the lodge after normal park hours should be provided via the S114. After hour access to the lodge should be confined to the H3 –S121 route. This will avoid light and noise impacts associated with shuttles for residents of Leopard Creek. Shuttles used to transfer guests to the hotel from the Park and Ride facility must be fitted with GPS units to monitor routes and times;
- The gate on the southern side of the Malalane Bridge should continue to be operated according to existing park hours. The gate should be automated and upgraded to include the installation of an intercom system linked to the lodge and the Park and Ride facility. Once the details of the guest/s have been confirmed the gate can be opened automatically to allow guests to drive over the Malalane Bridge and access the Park and Ride. This will prevent non-guests from accessing the bridge after normal park hours;
- No music (car radios etc.) should be permitted at the Park and Ride facility.

4.4.7 Impact on adjacent land uses and activities

The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge overlooks the sugarcane plantations which are burnt on an annual basis. The operations also include aerial spraying of pesticides and harvesting. These activities have the potential to impact negatively on the Malelane Safari Lodge. Concerns were raised by a representative from TSB that the proposed development and complaints from visitors would put pressure in the existing sugarcane operations on the southern bank of the Crocodile River, which, in turn, would compromise the activities of farmers in the area. The representative from the proposed developers, Mr Wright, indicated the developers were aware of the existing sugarcane farming activities when the site was selected as the preferred site and that there was no intention to place pressure on these activities. In this regard the location of the tented accommodation had been designed to ensure that the sugarcane fields are not visible.
Table 4.12: Potential impact of the lodge on sugarcane farming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Potential impact of the lodge of existing sugarcane operations</th>
<th>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>Long Term (4)</td>
<td>Long Term (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magnitude</strong></td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
<td>Low (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Probability</strong></td>
<td>Probable (3)</td>
<td>Probable (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significance</strong></td>
<td>Low (24)</td>
<td>Low (24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reversibility</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can impact be enhanced?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Enhancement:** See below

**Cumulative impacts:** The proposed development may place pressure on other farming activities which in turn could result in job losses in the area

**Residual impacts:** See cumulative impacts

**Assessment of No-Go option**
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo.

**Recommended mitigation measures**
Effective mitigation is not possible. However, the developers should confirm in writing that they will not interfere in the activities of local sugarcane farmers whose plantations are located in the vicinity of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. Visitors to the lodge should also be informed that the areas on the southern bank of the Crocodile River are operating commercial farms. The operators of the lodge should also consider the establishment of a forum with the local commercial farmer in the vicinity of the lodge to discuss any issues that may arise.

**4.4 ASSESSMENT OF DECOMMISSIONING PHASE**

Should and when decommissioning take place, the typically, the major social impacts associated with the decommissioning phase are linked to the loss of jobs and associated income. This has implications for the households who are directly affected, the communities within which they live, and the relevant local authorities. Given the number of people employed during the operational phase (~250-280), the social impacts at a community level associated with decommissioning will need to be carefully managed. However, experience has shown that the potential impacts associated with the decommissioning phase can be effectively managed with the implementation of a retrenchment and downscaling programme. With mitigation, the impacts are assessed to be Low (negative).
The decommissioning phase is likely to create temporary employment opportunities associated with the demolition and rehabilitation of the site.

Table 4.13: Social impacts associated with decommissioning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Social impacts associated with retrenchment including loss of jobs, and source of income</th>
<th>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>Medium (3)</td>
<td>Medium (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Short Term (2)</td>
<td>Very Short Term (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnitude</td>
<td>Moderate (6)</td>
<td>Minor (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Highly Probable (4)</td>
<td>Highly Probable (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>Moderate (44)</td>
<td>Low (24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Negative-Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversibility</td>
<td>Yes, assumes retrenchment packages are paid to all affected employees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can impact be mitigated?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigation:</td>
<td>See below</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cumulative impacts: Loss of jobs and associated loss of income etc. can impact on the local economy and other businesses. However, decommissioning can also create short term, temporary employment opportunities associated with dismantling etc.

Residual impacts: See cumulative impacts

Assessment of No-Go option
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo.

Recommended mitigation measures
The following mitigation measures are recommended:

- The proponent should ensure that retrenchment packages are provided for all staff retrenched when the lodge is decommissioned.
- All structures and infrastructure associated with the proposed facility should be dismantled and transported off-site on decommissioning;
- The site should be rehabilitated back to its natural state on closure.

4.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON SENSE OF PLACE IN KRUGER PARK

As indicated above, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs approved the Kruger National Park Revised Zonation Plan on 26 June 2013. The Revised Zonation Plan makes provision for the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The development opportunities associated with the PDZ include the development of accommodation facilities such as the proposed lodge. The establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is therefore in keeping with the policy of
SANParks for the Kruger National Park. The cumulative impact of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge on the wilderness and remote sense of place associated with the Kruger National Park is therefore likely to be limited.

However, as indicated above, the 24 hour access for the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge has the potential to create a precedent to allow 24 hour access for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park. This will increase the cumulative risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching. The increase in traffic on the roads within the Kruger National Park after closing hours will also have a potential cumulative impact on the night time wilderness character of the area and on road kills. As indicated above, SANParks has indicated that 24 hour access will be limited to the Malelane Safari Lodge and will not be extended to current concessions in the Kruger National Park.

Table 4.14: Cumulative impact associated with 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature: Cumulative impact of 24 hour access on night time wilderness character of Kruger National Park and poaching</th>
<th>Without Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
<th>With Mitigation / Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>Medium (3) to International (5)(^4)</td>
<td>Local (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Long term (4)</td>
<td>Long term (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnitude</td>
<td>High (8)</td>
<td>Minor (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Highly Probable (4)</td>
<td>Highly Probable (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
<td>High (60-68)</td>
<td>Low (28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversibility</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irreplaceable loss of resources?</td>
<td>Yes, if results in increase in rhino and or poaching of other endangered species</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can impact be mitigated?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mitigation: See below

**Assessment of No-Go option**
There is no impact as it maintains the current status quo.

**Recommended mitigation measures**
SANParks should adhere to its commitment that 24 hour access will be limited to the Malelane Safari Lodge and will not be extended to current concessions in the Kruger National Park. The recommendations regarding the management and operation of the 24 hour access and the Park and Ride listed above should also be implemented.

\(^4\) Rating linked to international significance of rhino poaching
4.6  ASSESSMENT OF NO-DEVELOPMENT OPTION

The No-Development option would result in a lost opportunity to create employment and business opportunities during both the construction and operational phase of the proposed development. In addition, as indicated above, the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is located with the PDZ and is therefore in keeping with the policy of SANParks for the Kruger National Park.

Table 4.15: Assessment of no-development option

| Nature: Lost opportunity to create employment and business opportunities during both the construction and operational phase and promote tourism development |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Without Mitigation / Enhancement | With Mitigation / Enhancement |
| Extent | Medium (3) | Medium (3) |
| Duration | Long term (4) | Long term (4) |
| Magnitude | Moderate (6) | Moderate (6) |
| Probability | Highly Probable (4) | Highly Probable (4) |
| Significance | Moderate (52) | Moderate (52) |
| Status | Negative | Positive |
| Reversibility | Yes | |
| Irreplaceable loss of resources? | No | |
| Can impact be mitigated? | Yes | |
| Enhancement: | See below |

**Cumulative impacts:** Lost opportunity to support local economic development and create employment

**Residual impacts:** See cumulative impacts

**Recommended enhancement measures**

The proposed facility should be developed and the mitigation and enhancement measures identified in the SIA and other specialist studies should be implemented.
SECTION 5: KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 5 lists the key findings of the study and recommendations. These findings are based on:

- A review of the issues identified during the Scoping Process;
- A review of key planning and policy documents pertaining to the area;
- Semi-structured interviews with interested and affected parties;
- A review of social and economic issues associated with similar developments;
- A review of relevant literature on social and economic impacts;
- The experience of the author with similar projects in South Africa.

5.2 SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The key findings of the study are summarised under the following sections:

- Fit with policy and planning;
- Construction phase impacts;
- Operational phase impacts;
- Cumulative Impacts;
- Decommissioning phase impacts;
- No-development option.

5.2.1 Policy and planning issues

The focus of the review was on the key planning documentation pertaining to the Kruger National Park. In this regard the following policy and planning documents were reviewed, namely:

- Kruger National Park Management Plan;
- Kruger National Park Zonation Plan; and
- Revised Kruger Park Zonation Plan.

The IDPs for the Ehlanzeni District Municipality and Nkomasi Local Municipality were also reviewed in order to identify the key socio-economic challenges and opportunities in the study area and the relevance of these to the proposed development.

The findings of the review indicate that the Kruger National Park Revised Zonation Plan was approved by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs on 26 June 2013. The Revised Zonation Plan provides for the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The development opportunities associated with the PDZ include accommodation facilities such lodges. The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is located within the PDZ and is therefore compatible with the land uses permitted within the PDZ.

5.1.1 Construction phase impacts

The key social issues associated with the construction phase are the following:
**Potential positive impacts**

- Creation of employment and business opportunities;

The construction phase for the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is expected to extend over a period of 14 months and create approximately 130 employment opportunities during peak construction of which approximately 70% (91) will be available to low skilled workers (construction labourers, security staff etc.), 20% (26) for semi-skilled workers (drivers, equipment operators etc.) and 10% (13) for skilled personnel (engineers, land surveyors, project managers etc.). Members from the local communities are likely to be in a position to qualify for the majority of the low skilled and semi-skilled employment opportunities. The majority of these employment opportunities are also likely to accrue to Historically Disadvantaged (HD) members from the local community. Given high local unemployment levels and limited job opportunities in the area, this will represent a significant, if localised, social benefit for the Nkomazi Local Municipality. However, in the absence of specific commitments from the developer to maximise local employment targets the potential opportunities for local employment will be limited. In addition, the low education and skills levels in the area may also hamper potential opportunities for local communities. Due to the short duration of the construction phase (14 months) the potential for implementing an effective training and skills development programme are likely to be limited.

The wage bill for construction phase is estimated to be in the region of R 22 million (2014 rand value). A percentage of the total wage bill will be spent in the local economy which will create opportunities for local businesses in Malelane and Mbombela.

The capital expenditure, including wages, associated with the construction and establishment of the proposed lodge will be in the region of R 283 million (2014 rand value) (Secprop, 2015). In terms of business opportunities for local companies, expenditure during the construction phase will create business opportunities for the regional and local economy. The sector of the local economy that is most likely to benefit from the proposed development is the local building industry and service sector. The potential opportunities for building sector would be linked to the supply of building materials for the construction phase. The benefits for the local service sector would be linked to accommodation, catering, cleaning, transport and security, etc. associated with the construction workers employed during the construction phase. The implementation of the proposed enhancement measures would also enable the establishment of the proposed lodge to support co-operation between the public and private sectors, which would support local economic development in the NLM.

**Potential negative impacts**

- Impacts associated with the presence of construction workers on local communities;
- Increased risk of poaching associated with presence of construction workers on the site;
- Increased risk of grass fires associated with construction related activities;
- Noise, dust and safety impacts of construction related activities and vehicles.

The significance of the potential negative impacts with mitigation was assessed to be of Low significance. The majority of the potential negative impacts can therefore be effectively mitigated if the recommended mitigation measures are implemented. In addition, given that the majority of the low and semi-skilled construction workers can be sourced from the local area the potential risk to local family structures and social networks is regarded as low. However, the impact on individuals who are directly
impacted on by construction workers (i.e. contract HIV/ AIDS) was assessed to be of Medium-High negative significance.

Table 5.1 summarises the significance of the impacts associated with the construction phase.

**Table 5.1: Summary of social impacts during construction phase**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Significance No Mitigation</th>
<th>Significance With Mitigation/Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creation of employment and business opportunities</td>
<td>Low (Positive impact)</td>
<td>Medium (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of construction workers and potential impacts on family</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact for</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structures and social networks</td>
<td>community as a whole)</td>
<td>community as a whole)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medium-High (Negative</td>
<td>Medium-High (Negative impact of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>impact of individuals)</td>
<td>individuals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased risk of poaching associated with presence of construction</td>
<td>Medium (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>workers on the site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased risk of grass fires</td>
<td>Medium (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of heavy vehicles and construction activities</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.2 Operational phase impacts

The following key social issues are of relevance to the operational phase:

**Potential positive impacts**
- Creation of employment and business opportunities. The operational phase will also create opportunities for skills development and training;
- Creation of opportunities for local SMMEs;
- Benefits associated with the establishment of a Community Trust;
- The establishment of new, tourism destination in the Kruger National Park.

**Creation of employment and business opportunities**
The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge will create in the region of 250-280 permanent employment opportunities during the operational phase. Of this total approximately 80% of the opportunities will be low and semi-skilled positions. The majority of employment opportunities are likely to benefit HD members of the community. An additional 20 seasonal employment opportunities will also be created during peak holiday periods, such as long weekends and school holidays.

It will also be possible to increase the number of local employment opportunities through the implementation of a skills development and training programme linked to the operational phase. Such a programme would support the strategic goals of promoting local employment and skills development contained in the NLM IDP.
Creation of opportunities for local SMMEs
The proposed Malelane Safari Lodge will create a number of potential opportunities for local individuals and SMMEs. In this regard the proposed lodge will create opportunities for the local service sector in Malalane. The key sectors likely to benefit from the development include food and beverage suppliers, cleaning and maintenance companies, security companies, and transport companies.

The lodge will also create opportunities for local community members involved in arts and crafts. These opportunities will be linked to the opportunity to sell local arts and crafts to visitors staying at the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. This will support the efforts of the SANParks to create opportunities for local communities living in the vicinity of the Kruger National Park to benefit from the activities that take place in the park.

Benefits associated with the establishment of Community Trust
A Community Trust, The Cradle of Malelane Hotel Employees and Community Trust, will be established as required in terms of the PPP agreement with SANParks. The success of the trust will be dependent upon the financial success of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. Based on the information provided by Malelane Safari Resort Investments (Pty) Ltd, they and SANParks are confident that the proposed development will be financially successful. This is based on market research undertaken by SANParks, Secprop Leisure and Carlson Rezidor.

Establishment of a new tourist destination in the Kruger National Park
A number of individuals and organisations are opposed to the establishment of hotels in the Kruger National Park, such as Against Interference in Kruger Our Nature Asset (AIKONA) and Africa Wild. However, the Kruger National Park Revised Zonation Plan was approved by Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs on 26 June 2013. The Revised Zonation Plan makes provision for the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The PDZ allows for the development of accommodation facilities such as the proposed lodge. The establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is therefore in keeping with the policy of SANParks for the Kruger National Park.

The establishment of a new tourism destination in the Kruger National Park will increase the number of beds in the park. The proposed development will also provide an alternative to the existing accommodation options available in the park, thereby appealing to a different sector of the market. The involvement of the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group as the operators also provides the development with an international hotel operator with an established track record. The involvement of Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group is also likely to create opportunities to market the lodge overseas. This in turn will benefit tourism in South Africa, the Kruger National Park and the local area.

Potential negative impacts
- Impact on existing tourism operators;
- Impacts associated with the Park and Ride and 24 access to the Kruger National Park;
- Impact on adjacent land uses and activities.

Impact on existing tourist operations
The existing tourist operations that stand to most affected by the proposed Malalane Safari Lodge include the Pestana Kruger Lodge, which is located on the south bank of the Crocodile River adjacent to the Malalane Bridge, Jocks Safari Lodge and the Lukimbi Safari Lodge. The key concerns raised by the manager of the Pestana Lodge is that the proposed Malalane Safari Lodge will, by virtue of its location within the Kruger National
Park, provide an attractive alternative for visitors who would have traditionally stayed at the Pestana Lodge. The potential impact was likely to be exacerbated by the 24 hour access associated with the Park and Ride. The conference and spa facilities will also compete with the Pestana Lodge. The impact on the Pestana Lodge would in turn result in job losses.

While the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge does have the potential to impact on the Pestana Lodge, within a free market economy developers have the right to establish facilities that provide competition and create choices for consumers. Likewise, the owners of the Pestana Lodge have the right to reduce their rates or offer special discounts that would potential impact on the Malelane Safari Lodge. In terms of assessing the potential impact, there are a number of other variables that are unrelated to the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge that could also impact on the Pestana Lodge, including the state of the global and South African economy, the interest and rand exchange rate, crime levels in South Africa and political changes. The assessment of the proposed impact of the Malelane Safari Lodge on the Pestana Lodge and, for that matter other tourism operations in the area, is therefore unlikely to be definitive. In this regard other tourism operators in the area indicated that the establishment of a four star hotel in the Kruger National Park near the Malalane Gate would attract more visitors to the area, which, would in turn benefit the local economy.

In the case of the Jock Safari and Lukimbi Lodges, the market they cater for is more exclusive and discerning. The patrons who can afford to pay the rates charged by the Jock Safari and Lukimbi Lodge are paying for the exclusiveness associated with these small luxury lodges. These patrons are unlikely to want to stay at a 240 bed facility, such as the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge. The impact on these establishments is therefore likely to be limited.

**Impact of 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park**

The Park and Ride concept is one that has been adopted at other gates in the southern region of the Kruger Park as part of a SANParks strategy to cater for the increased demand for day visitor access to the Kruger at peak periods such as long weekends and public holidays. However, none of the existing Park and Ride operations provide 24 hour access. The decision to permit 24 hour access to the Malelane Safari Lodge was taken prior to the issuing of the tender process and is incorporated in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Agreement that the developer signed with SANParks.

A number of concerns were raised regarding the proposed Park and Ride facility, specifically the provision for 24 hour access. These include:

- Establishment of a precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park;
- Increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching in the Kruger National Park;
- Noise and light impacts for residents of the Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate;
- Increased risk of road kills due to increased vehicle traffic at night.

The findings of the SIA indicate that the establishment of 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park for the Malelane Safari Lodge will largely benefit the Malelane Safari Lodge. However, the costs or impacts will be borne by the Pestana Lodge and residents of Leopard Creek Golf Estate. The establishment of 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park also has the potential to increase the risk of poaching in the Kruger National Park and may create a precedent for existing and future facilities in the park,
including SANPARK facilities and private lodges. The establishment of 24 hour access also has the potential to result in negative cumulative impacts. In order to address these potential impacts a number of mitigation measures are recommended.

The establishment of the Park and Ride facility also creates an opportunity to address traffic congestion and delays at the Malalane Gate. These delays not only impact on visitors accessing the Kruger National Park, but also on guests and residents of the Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate respectively. It is recommended that SANPARKs consider using the Park and Ride facility to address the congestion problems that develop at the Malalane Gate.

The significance of the impacts associated with the operational phase are summarised in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Summary of social impacts during operational phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Significance No Mitigation</th>
<th>Significance With Mitigation/Enhancement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creation of employment and business opportunities</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
<td>High (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of opportunities for local SMMEs</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits associated with the establishment of a Community Trust</td>
<td>Low (Positive impact)</td>
<td>Medium (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of new, tourism destination in the Kruger National Park</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
<td>Moderate (Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on existing tourism operators</td>
<td>Low (Negative or Positive impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative or Positive impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts associated with 24 access to the Kruger National Park</td>
<td>High (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on adjacent land uses and activities</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
<td>Low (Negative impact)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.3 Assessment of cumulative impacts

The Revised Zonation Plan makes provision for the establishment of a Peripheral Development Zone (PDZ) which extends 2 km into the Park. The development opportunities associated with the PDZ include the development of accommodation facilities such as the proposed lodge. The establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is therefore in keeping with the policy of SANPARKs for the Kruger National Park. The cumulative impact of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge on the wilderness and remote sense of place associated with the Kruger National Park is therefore likely to be limited.

However, provision of 24 hour access for the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge has the potential to create a precedent to allow 24 hour access for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park. This will increase the cumulative risk of poaching,
specifically rhino poaching. The increase in traffic on the roads within the Kruger National Park after closing hours will also have a cumulative impact on the night time wilderness character of the area and on road kills. SANParks has indicated that 24 hour access will be limited to the Malelane Safari Lodge and will not be extended to current concessions in the Kruger National Park.

The significance of the cumulative impact of providing 24 hour access to the Kruger National Park is rated as **Low Negative** with mitigation.

### 5.2.4 Decommissioning phase

The major social impacts associated with the decommissioning phase are linked to the loss of jobs and associated income. This has implications for the households who are directly affected, the communities within which they live, and the relevant local authorities. Given the number of people employed during the operational phase (~250-280), the social impacts at a community level associated with decommissioning will need to be carefully managed. However, experience has shown that the potential impacts associated with the decommissioning phase can be effectively managed with the implementation of a retrenchment and downsizing programme. With mitigation, the impacts were assessed to be **Low Negative**.

### 5.2.5 Assessment of no-development option

The No-Development option would result in a lost opportunity to create employment and business opportunities during both the construction and operational phase of the proposed development. In addition, as indicated above, the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is located with the PDZ and is therefore in keeping with the policy of SANParks for the Kruger National Park.

### 5.3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the SIA indicate that the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is located with the PDZ and is, therefore, in keeping with the policy of SANParks for the Kruger National Park. The development will create employment and business opportunities for locals during both the construction and operational phase of the project. The significance of this impact for the operational phase is rated as **High Positive**. The proposed development also creates an opportunity to establish a new tourist destination within the Kruger National Park.

The proposed development has the potential to impact on a number of existing tourist operations, specifically the Pestana Kruger Lodge, Jocks Safari Lodge and the Lukimbi Safari Lodge. However, the operation of these and other tourism establishment in the area are dependent upon a number of economic factors, such as the state of the global economy and the rand exchange rate. An assessment of the proposed impact of the Malelane Safari Lodge on the tourism operations in the area is therefore unlikely to be definitive.

The establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge is therefore supported. However, the provision for 24 hour access has the potential to result in a number of potential negative social impacts. These include:

- Establishment of a precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park;
- Increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching in the Kruger National Park;
- Noise and light impacts for residents of the Pestana Lodge and Leopard Creek Golf Estate.

In order to reduce the potential risks and impacts associated with the proposed 24 hour access the following mitigation measures are recommended:

**Precedent for existing and future operations in the Kruger National Park**
- SANParks should adhere to its commitment that 24 hour access will be limited to the Malelane Safari Lodge and will not be extended to current concessions in the Kruger National Park.

**Increased risk of poaching, specifically rhino poaching**
- Shuttles used to transfer guest to hotel from the Park and Ride facility must be fitted with GPS units to monitor routes and times;
- The registration number and name of the driver and passengers of all cars entering the Kruger National Park after normal operating hours must be recorded;
- Only guests with confirmed bookings at the Malelane Safari Lodge should be permitted to access the Kruger National Park after normal park hours.

**Noise and light impacts**
- Only guests with confirmed bookings at the Malelane Safari Lodge should be permitted to access the Kruger National Park after normal park hours;
- Bookings must have been made during normal park hours on the day of arrival at the latest. Guests who attempt to book after normal park hours on the proposed day of arrival should be informed that they will not be able to access the Kruger National Park. This will reduce the risk of guests taking advantage of the 24 hour access facility provided for the hotel;
- As recommended by SANParks, access should be limited up until 22h00. Guests should be informed of this when booking;
- Access after 22h00 should only be permitted in the case of emergencies;
- Non-guests attending functions (conferences etc.) at the hotel should be required to leave the Kruger National Park by 22h00. This will assist to mitigate the noise and light impacts associated with cars leaving the Kruger National Park and crossing the Malalane Bridge after normal park hours;
- No access to the lodge after normal park hours should be provided via the S114. After hour access to the lodge should be confined to the H3 –S121 route. This will avoid light and noise impacts associated with shuttles for residents of Leopard Creek. Shuttles used to transfer guest to hotel from the Park and Ride facility must be fitted with GPS units to monitor routes and times;
- The gate on the southern side of the Malalane Bridge should continue to be operated according to existing park hours. The gate should be automated and up-graded to include the installation of an intercom system linked to the lodge and the Park and Ride facility. Once the details of the guest/s have been confirmed the gate can be opened automatically to allow guests to drive over the Malalane Bridge and access the Park and Ride. This will prevent non-guests from accessing the bridge after normal park hours;
- No music (car radios etc.) should be permitted at the Park and Ride facility.
5.4 IMPACT STATEMENT

The findings of the SIA undertaken for the proposed Malelane Safari Lodge indicates that the development will create employment and business opportunities for locals during both the construction and operational phase. It is, therefore, recommended that the lodge be supported, subject to the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures contained in the report, specifically relating to the management of the 24 hour access associated with the Park and Ride facility.
ANNEXURE A

Interviews

- Mr Mel Preddy, TSB Sugar, 22/01/2015;
- Kobus Staplenberg, TWK Versken, 22/01/2015;
- Martie Kruger, TWK Versken, 22/01/2015;
- Renald Radley, Radley landgoed, 22/01/2015;
- Hess Radley, Hess Radley Architects, 22/01/2015;
- Magdel vd Berg, Corridor Gazette, 22/01/2015;
- Abraham v Verjeren, AMVV Lawyers, 22/01/2015;
- Sonja v Verjeren, AMVV Lawyers, 22/01/2015;
- R v Rensburg, 22/01/2015;
- H Barwise, Emergency Services, 22/01/2015;
- J de Villiers, NSSF, 22/01/2015;
- H Synman, Urcher Sugar, 22/01/2015;
- P Kotze, Mascor, 22/01/2015;
- Martin Oberholzer, BU CO Komatipoort, 22/01/2015;
- Wimpie v d Schyff, BU CO Malalane, 22/01/2015;
- Hernriette Campho, Essekens Engelbrechts Engineers, 22/01/2015;
- Leandre Bester, Frans Meyer Engineers, 22/01/2015;
- Nito-Louise Bester, Chicken Licken, 22/01/2015;
- Suzette v Staden, Pam Golding, 22/01/2015;
- MMS Preddy, DA Councillor Nkomazi, 22/01/2015;
- Nisikie Kgomo, EDM LED, Tourism and Rural Development, 23/01/2015;
- Johan Bothma, EDM LED, Tourism and Rural Development, 23/01/2015;
- R Mahiakoane, EDM LED, Tourism and Rural Development, 23/01/2015;
- ML Nkosi, EDM LED, Tourism and Rural Development, 23/01/2015;
- N Masaribo, EDM LED, Tourism and Rural Development, 23/01/2015;
- C Mnisi, EDM LED, Tourism and Rural Development, 23/01/2015;
- Gerhard Smit, AIKONA, 22/01/2015;
- Tobie Kloppers, Leopard Creek Estate Manager, 21/01/2015;
- Derreck Muggeridge, Leopard Creek Maintenance and Course Manager, 21/01/2015;
- Mr Mohale, IDP Manager, NLM, 20/01/2015;
- Louis Strauss, Jock Safari Lodge Manager, 21/01/2015;
- Chris Engelbrecht, Pestana Lodge Legal Representative, 21/01/2015;
- Simon Rowson, Pestana Lodge Manager, 21/01/2015;
- Fred de Groot, Africa Wild, 19/01/2015;
- Anita Brodell, Rio Vista Lodge, 20/01/2015;
- Shaun Brodell, Rio Vista Lodge, 20/01/2015;
- Peter Wrigh, proponent, 19/01/2015, 30/01/2015.

Contacted via e-mail

- Ronelle Putter, Onderberg Farmers Union, Malalane Irrigation Board, Crocodile River Irrigation Board;
- Annemi v Jaarsveld, SANParks, General Manager Business Development;
- William Mbasa, SANParks, General Manager, Marketing and Communications;
- Freek Venter, SANParks, General Manager Conservation;
- Giju Varghese, SANParks, Head of Business Development;
- Glen Phillips, SANParks, Managing Executive Tourism and Marketing.
References

- Kruger National Park Management Plan (2008);
- Kruger National Park Zonation Plan (2008);
- Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan (2011)
- Revised Kruger Park Zonation Plan.
ANNEXURE B

METHODOLOGY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the above issues, as well as all other issues identified will be assessed in terms of the following criteria:

- The **nature**, which shall include a description of what causes the effect, what will be affected and how it will be affected.
- The **extent**, where it will be indicated whether the impact will be local (limited to the immediate area or site of development), regional, national or international. A score between 1 and 5 will be assigned as appropriate (with a score of 1 being low and a score of 5 being high).
- The **duration**, where it will be indicated whether:
  - the lifetime of the impact will be of a very short duration (0–1 years) – assigned a score of 1;
  - the lifetime of the impact will be of a short duration (2-5 years) - assigned a score of 2;
  - medium-term (5–15 years) – assigned a score of 3;
  - long term (> 15 years) - assigned a score of 4; or
  - permanent - assigned a score of 5.
- The **magnitude**, quantified on a scale from 0-10, where a score is assigned:
  - 0 is small and will have no effect on the environment;
  - 2 is minor and will not result in an impact on processes;
  - 4 is low and will cause a slight impact on processes;
  - 6 is moderate and will result in processes continuing but in a modified way;
  - 8 is high (processes are altered to the extent that they temporarily cease); and
  - 10 is very high and results in complete destruction of patterns and permanent cessation of processes.
- The **probability of occurrence**, which shall describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring. Probability will be estimated on a scale, and a score assigned:
  - Assigned a score of 1–5, where 1 is very improbable (probably will not happen);
  - Assigned a score of 2 is improbable (some possibility, but low likelihood);
  - Assigned a score of 3 is probable (distinct possibility);
  - Assigned a score of 4 is highly probable (most likely); and
  - Assigned a score of 5 is definite (impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures).
- The **significance**, which shall be determined through a synthesis of the characteristics described above (refer formula below) and can be assessed as low, medium or high.
- The **status**, which will be described as either positive, negative or neutral.
- The **degree** to which the impact can be **reversed**.
- The **degree** to which the impact may cause **irreplaceable loss of resources**.
- The **degree** to which the impact can be **mitigated**.

The **significance** is determined by combining the criteria in the following formula:

\[ S = (E + D + M)P \]

where

\( S = \text{Significance weighting} \)
\( E = \text{Extent} \)
\( D = \text{Duration} \)
M = Magnitude  
P = Probability

The **significance weightings** for each potential impact are as follows:

- 2-12 points: Negligible.
- 13-30 points: Low (i.e. where this impact would not have a direct influence on the decision to develop in the area),
- 31-56 points: Medium (i.e. where the impact could influence the decision to develop in the area unless it is effectively mitigated),
- 57-90 points: High (i.e. where the impact must have an influence on the decision process to develop in the area);
- 91-100 points: Very High.
1. INTRODUCTION

NuLeaf Planning and Environmental was appointed by Malelane Safari Resort Investment (Pty) Ltd as the lead consultant to manage the Basic Assessment (BA) process for the establishment of the proposed Malelane Safari Resort and associated infrastructure within the Kruger National Park. The site is located within the ‘Peripheral Development Zone’ (PDZ), as per the Kruger National Park’s Conservation Development Framework (CDF) were identified. The PDZ has a width of 2km from the Kruger National Park (KNP) boundary in this area. The zoning was approved by the Minister of Environmental Affairs in 2013 and allows for the development of tourist accommodation facilities of up to 240 beds.

Five alternatives were identified with Alternative 2 selected as the preferred alternative. Alternative 2 is located approximately 10 km north east of the Malelane Gate on the western bank of the Crocodile River, adjacent to the confluence of the Timfeneni River (Figure 1).

Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting was appointed to undertake a specialist Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as part of the BA process. The aim of the Background Information Document (BID) is to:
- Provide key stakeholders with information on the location of the site;
- Provide information on the proposed development;
- Aim of the SIA.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Malelane Safari Resort consists of a 240 bed Safari Lodge with a four star rating in the Malelane Region of the Kruger National Park. Figure 2 provides an indication of the proposed layout. The proposed lodge will be aimed at providing a more affordable full service, lodge-type accommodation, compared to the existing up-market lodges. The lodge also provides an alternative to the existing self-catering accommodation currently available in the Kruger Park. Attracting more middle-class local visitors is one of SANParks’ three focus market areas for the Kruger National Park.

The main activities to be provided by the safari lodge include the following:
- Accommodation in tented units (120);
- Main lodge with pool area;
- Restaurant;
- Conference venue;
- Family Centre;
- Wellness Centre / Spa;
- Curio shop;
- Riverside meander, river footbridge and catering deck;

In addition, the proposed development includes the establishment of a ‘Park and Ride’ facility located next to the Malelane Gate (south west of the existing staff housing). The Park and Ride facility will provide 24 hour access to the site via a shuttle service and will be developed as a partnership between the proposed lodge and the Kruger National Park.

The estimated cost of the project will be in the region of R 283 million. The construction phase will extend over a period of ~ 14 months and create ~ 130 employment opportunities. The operational phase will create ~ 280 permanent employment opportunities linked to the lodge and the management of the area. The development will also create opportunities for local business in the area, such as maintenance, catering, security, waste management etc.

The stakeholders in the project include the South African National Parks, the neighbouring community in the form of a Trust funded by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Public Investment Company (PIC), local BEE partners, Carlson Rezidor Hotels (Raddisson), the Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries, and two local private enterprises (Secprop Leisure and Cradle of Man).

Figure 1: Location of proposed Malelane Safari Resort
3. AIM OF THE SIA

The objectives of the SIA are to provide the EIA with a detailed description of the local socio-economic conditions affected by the proposed project and to identify the potential social opportunities and risks associated with the project. Is so doing the SIA will seek to identify measures that can be implemented to avoid and or minimize the potential social risks. The SIA will also identify measures to enhance the potential social benefits associated with the proposed project. The proposed approach to the SIA will be informed by the Guidelines for SIA endorsed by Western Cape Provincial Environmental Authorities (DEA&DP) in 2007. The Guidelines are based on accepted international best practice guidelines, including the Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment (Inter-organizational Committee on Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment, 1994). The approach to the study will involve:

- Collection and review of reports and baseline socio-economic data on the area. This includes socio-economic characteristics of the affected areas, current and future land uses, and land uses planning documents relating to the study area and surrounds;
- Identification of the components associated with the establishment / construction and operational phase of the proposed project, including estimate of total capital expenditure, number of employment opportunities created, breakdown of the employment opportunities in terms of skill levels (low, medium and high skilled), breakdown of wages per skill level, assessment procurement policies etc.;
- Identify key stakeholders and set up meetings;
- Interviews with key affected parties, including potentially affected, landowners, representatives from the local municipality, local community organizations, etc.;
- Identification and assessment of key social issues and assessment of potential impacts (negative and positive) associated with the construction and operational phase;
- Identification of potential mitigation and enhancement measures;
- Preparation of Draft Report for comment;
- Incorporate comments on Draft Report and prepare Final Report.