



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia · PRETORIA  
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

**NEAS Reference:** DEA/EIA/0002619/2014

**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/1282

**Enquiries:** Zamalanga Langa

**Telephone:** 012-399 9398 **E-mail:** [ZLanga@environment.gov.za](mailto:ZLanga@environment.gov.za)

Tracy-Lee Petersen  
South African National Parks  
Private Bag X402  
**SKUKUZA**  
1350

Telephone Number: (013) 735 4271  
Email Address: [tracy.petersen@sanparks.org](mailto:tracy.petersen@sanparks.org)

### **PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Ms. Petersen

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 543/544/545/546 FOR THE PROPOSED SAFARI LODGE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUTURE IN SKUKUZA REST CAMP, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The environmental authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of regulation 10(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 12 (twelve) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 7 of the Regulations, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached document. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Should the applicant or any other party wish to appeal any aspect of the amendment decision a notice of intention to appeal must be lodged by all prospective appellants with the Minister, within 20 days of the date of this decision, by means of one of the following methods:

By post: Private Bag X447,  
Pretoria, 0001; or  
By hand: Department of Environmental Affairs  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia  
Pretoria.

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If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection, should you intend to submit an appeal.

**Appeals must be submitted in writing to:**

Mr Z Hassam Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: (012) 399 9356

Email: [AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za](mailto:AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za)

The authorised activities must not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the environmental authorisation. Further, please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under section 43 of that Act will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

Yours faithfully

  
**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**  
Date: *28/5/2015*

cc:	Mr. Herman Gildenhuis	Exigo Sustainability (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 012 751 2160	herman@exigo3.com
	Ronyn Luyt	Mpumalanga DEDET	Tel: 013 766 4826	rluyt@mpg.gov.za
	Shile Mthembu	Mbombela Local Municipality	Tel: 013 759 2356	Shile.Mthembu@mbombela.gov.za

**APPEALS PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2010 (THE REGULATIONS) AS PER GN R. 543 OF 2010 TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE APPLICANT AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES UPON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA)**

APPLICANT	INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)
1. Receive EA from the relevant Competent Authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs [DEA]).	1. Receive EA from Applicant/Consultant.
2. Within 12 days of date of the EA notify all IAPs of the EA and draw their attention to their right to appeal against the EA in terms of Chapter 7 of the Regulations.	2. N/A.
3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA with the Minister of Environmental Affairs (the Minister).	3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA. with the Minister of Environmental Affairs (the Minister).
4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide each registered IAP with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.	4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide the applicant with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.
5. The Applicant must also serve on each IAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection.</li> </ul>	5. Appellant must also serve on the Applicant within 10 days of lodging the notice, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection by the applicant.</li> </ul>
6. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.	6. The appeal must be submitted to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.
7. Any IAP who received a notice of intention to appeal may submit a responding statement to that appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.	7. An Applicant who received notice of intention to may submit a responding statement to the appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.

**NOTES:**

1. **An appeal must be:-**
  - a) submitted in writing;
  - b) accompanied by:
    - a statement setting out the grounds of appeal;
    - supporting documentation which is referred to in the appeal; and
    - a statement that the appellant has complied with regulation 62 (2) or (3) together with copies of the notices referred to in regulation 62.



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 36 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010

The Proposed Safari Lodge Development and Associated Infrastructure in Skukuza Rest camp,  
Kruger National Park, Mbombela Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province

Ehlanzeni District Municipality

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	14/12/16/3/3/1/1282
<b>NEAS reference number:</b>	DEA/EIA/0002619/2015
<b>Last amended:</b>	First issue
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	South African National Parks
<b>Location of activity:</b>	MPUMALANGA, WITHIN MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

## Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this environmental authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

## Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 the Department hereby authorises –

### **SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS**

With the following contact details –

Ms. Tracy-Lee Petersen

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS

Private Bag X 402

SKUKUZA

1350

Tel no : (013) 735 4271

Fax : (013) 735 4051

e-mail: [tracy.petersen@sanparks.org](mailto:tracy.petersen@sanparks.org)

To undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notices 1, 2 or 3 (GN R. 544, 545 & 546):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R.544 Item 23:</u></p> <p><i>The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to –</i></p> <p><i>(i) residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, inside an urban area, and where the total area to be transformed is 5 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares, or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares; -</i></p> <p><i>except where such transformation takes place for linear activities.</i></p>	<p>The proposed lodge and surrounds (including parking areas and back-of- house services) will be ± 2 hectares. The additional housing areas are proposed to be ± 1.78 hectares, while the office, tunnel and store relocations will be 0.46 hectares in size. The anaerobic digester is proposed to be 0.072 hectares in size. The total development (excluding linear activities) is expected to be ± 4.31 hectares in size.</p> <p>Applicable activity: 23(ii)</p>
<p><u>GN R.544 Item 24:</u></p> <p><i>The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Schedule such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.</i></p>	<p>The site falls within the Kruger National Park, which is a conservation area.</p>
<p><u>GN R.544 Item 28:</u></p> <p><i>The expansion of existing facilities for any process or activity where such expansion will result in the need for a new, or amendment of, an existing permit or license in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the release of emissions or pollution, excluding where the facility, process or activity is included in the list of waste management activities published in terms of section 19 of the</i></p>	<p>The anaerobic digester (tank) is proposed prior to the existing oxidation ponds at the sewage treatment works. The proposed tank will require an amendment to the water use licence that</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case that Act will apply.</i></p>	<p>the park has for its existing sewage treatment works.</p>
<p><u>GN R.544 Item 37:</u>  <i>The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the bulk transportation of water, sewage or storm water where:</i>  <i>(a) the facility or infrastructure is expanded by more than 1000 metres in length;</i>  <i>or</i>  <i>where the throughput capacity of the facility or infrastructure will be increased by 10% or more—</i>  <i>excluding where such expansion:</i>  <i>(i) relates to transportation of water, sewage or storm water within a road reserve; or</i>  <i>(ii) where such expansion will occur within urban areas but further than 32 metres from a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.</i></p>	<p>New pipelines are proposed as an upgrade to the water and sewage reticulation network. The pipelines will be less than 0.36m in diameter and will not increase the throughput capacity by 10% or more, but the pipelines will be more than 1000 m in length.</p>
<p><u>GN R.546 Item 2:</u>  <i>The construction of reservoirs for bulk water supply with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.</i>  <i>(a) In Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces:</i>  <i>ii. In an estuary;</i>  <i>In a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</i>  <i>iii. Outside urban areas, in:</i>  <i>(aa) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</i>  <i>(bb) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</i>  <i>(cc) Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention;</i>  <i>(dd) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity</i></p>	<p>The site is within the Kruger National Park (a protected area and therefore also within a National Park).          One reservoir with a capacity of 540 m<sup>3</sup> will be constructed. The reservoir will be constructed within an area where there are existing reservoirs, however it will be a new reservoir.</p>

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Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</i></p> <p><i>(gg) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined.</i></p> <p><i>(hh) In urban areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Areas zoned for use as public open space;</i></li> <li><i>• Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, or zoned for a conservation purpose;</i></li> <li><i>• Areas seawards of the development setback line or within urban protected areas.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><u>GN R.546 Item 4:</u></p> <p><i>In Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces:</i></p> <p><i>ii. In an estuary;</i></p> <p><i>Outside urban areas, in:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</i></p> <p><i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</i></p> <p><i>(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention;</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</i></p>	<p>A few minor road upgrades will be required at the lodge and housing sites.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve;</i></p> <p><i>(hh) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined.</i></p> <p><i>(ii) In urban areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Areas zoned for use as public open space;</i></li> <li>• <i>Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose;</i></li> <li>• <i>seawards of the development setback line or within urban protected areas.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><u>GN R.546 Item 6:</u></p> <p><i>The construction of resorts, lodges or other tourism accommodation facilities that sleep 15 people or more.</i></p> <p><i>(a) In Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces:</i></p> <p><i>ii. In an estuary;</i></p> <p><i>Outside urban areas, in:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</i></p> <p><i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</i></p> <p><i>(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention;</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</i></p> <p><i>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage</i></p>	<p>The proposed lodge will be a 250 bed facility. The site is within the Skukuza Rest Camp.</p>

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Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</p> <p>(hh) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined;</p> <p>(ii) Areas on the watercourse side of the development setback line or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse where no such setback line has been determined.</p> <p>(jj) In urban areas, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas zoned for use as public open space;</li> <li>• Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose.</li> </ul>	
<p><u>GN R.546 Item 13:</u></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation, except where such removal of vegetation is required for:</p> <p>(1) the undertaking of a process or activity included in the list of waste management activities published in terms of section 19 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), in which case the activity is regarded to be excluded from this list.</p> <p>(2) the undertaking of a linear activity falling below the thresholds mentioned in Listing Notice 1 in terms of GN No. 544 of 2010.</p> <p>(c) In Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape and Western Cape:</p> <p>ii. In an estuary;</p> <p>Outside urban areas, the following:</p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p>	<p>The site where the lodge is proposed (± 2 hectares in size) constitutes a developed area that currently is occupied by staff housing and offices. Some indigenous tree species are present, however the site does not constitute more than 75% of indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>Some of the housing sites will however involve the clearing of vegetation of more than 1 hectare in size.</p> <p>The total area that will be cleared of indigenous</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</i>  <i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</i>  <i>(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention;</i>  <i>(ee) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</i>  <i>(ff) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</i>  <i>(gg) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined.</i>  <i>(hh) In urban areas, the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Areas zoned for use as public open space;</i></li> <li><i>• Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose;</i></li> <li><i>• Areas seawards of the development setback line;</i></li> <li><i>• Areas on the watercourse side of the development setback line or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse where no such setback line has been determined.</i></li> </ul>	<p>vegetation will be below 5 hectares in size.</p>
<p><u>GN R.546 Item 16:</u>  <u>The construction of:</u></p> <p><i>(i) jetties exceeding 10 square metres in size;</i>  <i>(ii) slipways exceeding 10 square metres in size;</i>  <i>(iii) buildings with a footprint exceeding 10 square metres in size; or</i>  <i>(iv) infrastructure covering 10 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</i></p>	<p>The additional 20 Kl/h module that will be installed at the water treatment works will be located within the boundary of the existing water treatment works, however the existing facility is within 32 metres of the banks of the Sabie River. A number of existing pipeline</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>(a) In Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape:</i></p> <p><i>ii. In an estuary;</i></p> <p><i>iii. Outside urban areas, in:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</i></p> <p><i>(cc) World Heritage Sites;</i></p> <p><i>(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; (ee) Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention;</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p> <p><i>(gg) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</i></p> <p><i>(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined.</i></p> <p><i>(jj) In urban areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Areas zoned for use as public open space;</i></li> <li><i>• Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, zoned for a conservation purpose; or</i></li> <li><i>• Areas seawards of the development setback line.</i></li> </ul>	<p>crossings will be utilised that might result in expansions or upgrades of these crossings.</p>
<p><u>GN R.546 Item 24:</u></p> <p><i>The expansion of</i></p> <p><i>(a) jetties where the jetty will be expanded by 10 square metres in</i></p>	<p>The additional 20 KI/h module that will be installed at the</p>

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Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>size or more;</i></p> <p><i>(b) slipways where the slipway will be expanded by 10 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>(c) buildings where the buildings will be expanded by 10 square metres or more in size; or</i></p> <p><i>(d) infrastructure where the infrastructure will be expanded by 10 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</i></p> <p><i>(a) In Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape:</i></p> <p><i>ii. In an estuary;</i></p> <p><i>Outside urban areas, in:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</i></p> <p><i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</i></p> <p><i>(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention;</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</i></p> <p><i>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</i></p> <p><i>(hh) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined.</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Inside urban areas:</i></p>	<p>water treatment works will be located within the boundary of the existing water treatment works, however the existing facility is within 32 metres of the banks of the Sabie River. A number of existing pipeline crossings will be utilised that might result in expansions or upgrades of these crossings.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas zoned for use as public open space;</li> <li>• Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose</li> </ul>	

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated March 2015 at:

Alternative 1: Safari lodge	Latitude	Longitude
Site Location	24° 59'34. 22"S	31° 35' 22. 63"E

Alternative 1: Staff Accommodation	Latitude	Longitude
Four 2-bedroom houses to be constructed to the south of the N'waswitshaka River	24° 59' 31. 31"S	31° 35' 12. 42"E

- The Proposed Safari Lodge Development and associated infrastructure in Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger National Park, situated within the Mpumalanga Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- a) Upgrading of the Skukuza Rest Camp water treatment works and water reticulation network including new water pipelines and 1 additional water reservoir;
- b) Upgrading of the sewer pump system and pipelines as well as an anaerobic digester before the oxidation pond at the existing sewage treatment plant;
- c) Minor road and storm water upgrades surrounding the lodge and new housing units.; and
- d) Electricity upgrades which includes an electrical cable from the existing Skukuza substation to the lodge.

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### **Scope of authorisation**

1. The preferred alternative for Skukuza Safari Lodge (alternative 1) and the preferred alternative (alternative 1) for the construction of Staff accommodation as described in the coordinates in the tables above are approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this authorisation, which form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. This activity must commence within a period of three (3) years from the date of issue of this authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
7. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
8. The holder of an environmental authorisation must notify the competent authority of any alienation, transfer and change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.

### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 12 (twelve) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.

10. The notification referred to must –
  - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
  - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 10.4. provide the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
11. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
  - 11.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
  - 11.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
  - 11.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in the newspaper(s) contemplated and used in terms of regulation 54(2)(c) and (d) and which newspaper was used for the placing of advertisements as part of the public participation process.

### **Management of the activity**

12. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the application for environmental authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented during the construction, operation and rehabilitation phases of the activity. The EMPr will be seen as a dynamic document. However, any changes to the EMPr must be submitted to the authorities for approval before implementation.
13. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for the construction phase of the development.
14. The provisions of the EMPr are an extension to the conditions of the environmental authorisation and therefore non-compliance with the EMPr shall constitute non-compliance with the environmental authorisation.

### **Monitoring**

15. The applicant must appoint a suitably experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that

the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.

- 15.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity/ies.
- 15.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
- 15.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 15.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

### **Recording and reporting to the Department**

16. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this authorisation, must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring at the Department.
17. The holder of the authorisation must submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
18. The environmental audit report must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the EMPr.
19. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

### **Commencement of the activity**

20. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
21. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

### **Notification to authorities**

22. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity will commence. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number. This notification period may coincide with the notice of intent to appeal period.

### **Operation of the activity**

23. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity operational phase will commence.

### **Site closure and decommissioning**

24. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.

### **Specific conditions**

25. The Applicant and the contractor must ensure that all site workers understand the content of the EMPr, Rehabilitation Plan and this EA prior construction.
26. All mitigation measures identified in the EMPr must be adhered to at all times.
27. Indigenous vegetation, or any other natural features outside the work area, which will not be cleared for construction purposes, must not be defaced or painted for benchmarks.
28. All activities including storage and offloading of material, and construction must be restricted to the demarcated area to minimise any potential disturbance to the surrounding area.
29. Use existing facilities to the extent possible to minimize the amount of new disturbance.
30. Plant species that are easily transplanted and that occur on site could be used for the landscaping of the site after construction of the Safari Lodge. These species should be preserved at the "ex situ" Skukuza Nursery.

31. Any excess material or waste material or chemicals must be removed from the site and discarded in an environmental friendly way.
32. Hazardous chemicals must be stored on an impervious surface protected from rainfall and storm water run-off and spill kits should be on-hand to deal with spills immediately.
33. The removal of the isolated indigenous trees and shrubs should only occur on the footprint area of the development and not over the larger area. No trees may be trimmed or removed without the prior permission of SANParks.
34. All cleared vegetation must either be mulched and mixed into the topsoil stockpiles or disposed of at an approved disposal site. The disposal of vegetation by burying or burning is prohibited without the prior permission of SANParks.
35. The ECO must be present for the site preparation and initial clearing activities to ensure the correct demarcation of no-go areas, facilitate environmental induction with construction staff and supervise any flora relocation and faunal rescue activities that may need to take place during the site clearing.
36. No vegetation may be cleared without prior permission from the ECO, the Project Manager and SANParks.
37. Any trees that are not to be cleared shall be marked beforehand with danger tape. The ECO must be given adequate advance notice of impending clearing activities to mark vegetation that is to be conserved before the contractor begins clearing the site.
38. Removal of alien invasive species or other vegetation and follow-up procedures must be in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983).
39. Small succulents and bulbs may be removed and transferred to areas that need rehabilitation prior to construction.
40. Destruction of the heritage resource on site must be mitigated. This mitigation is to be undertaken by a professional with a permit issued by SAHRA.
41. If any human remains are found during construction of the proposed development, work in that area must cease and SAHRA must be notified immediately.
42. All specialist recommendation and mitigation measure must be implemented and monitor as stated in the specialist reports.

### **General**

43. A copy of this authorisation and the approved EMP must be kept at the property where the activity/ will be undertaken. The authorisation and approved EMP must be produced to any authorised

official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.

44. The holder of the authorisation must notify both the *Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations* and the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department, in writing and within 48 (forty eight) hours, if any condition of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.

45. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the applicant or his successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the applicant with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: *28/5/2015*



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Environmental Affairs

## Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

### 1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The information contained in the BAR dated March 2015.
- b) The comments received from the interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated March 2015.
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated March 2015 and the EMPr..
- d) The information contained in the specialist study contained within Appendix D of the BAR.
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

### 2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The Skukuza Conference Centre resulted in the requirement for additional accommodation specifically suited to the conferencing market, the need for more formal, catered accommodation was identified.
- c) The BAR dated March 2015 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated March 2015 and the specialist study has been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2010 for public involvement.

### 3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated March 2015 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) The information contained in the BAR dated March 2015 is accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction process.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the proposed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The application is accordingly granted.