



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

SANParks SHANGONI GATE DEVELOPMENT - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

AGENDA

VENUE : Environment House, Arcadia, Pretoria

DATE : 26 September 2016

TIME : 11h00

Item	
1.	Welcome and Introduction
2.	Presentation of project
3.	Listed activities
4.	Scope of assessment
5.	Minimum requirements for compliance
6.	Land claim submissions & responses
7.	Advice from DEA on way forward
8.	General



Documented Procedure

Prepared By: Thabang Sekele

Approved By: Gesan Govender

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Meeting notes template



PRE APPLICATION MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

SANParks SHANGONI GATE DEVELOPMENT - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

- PROJECT** : PROPOSED SHANGONI GATE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.
- PURPOSE** : To consult with the Competent Authority (Department of Environmental Affairs) in regards to ensuring environmental legislation is complied with prior to applying for environmental authorisation.
- VENUE** : Environment House, Arcadia, Pretoria
- DATE** : 26 September 2016 at 11H00

ATTENDEES	
Name	
Danie Smit (DS)	Department of Environmental Affairs
Sindi Dlomo (SD)	Department of Environmental Affairs
Tracy-Lee Petersen (TLP)	SANParks – KNP Strategic Conservation Planner and Environmental Manager
Aurel Nyambi (AN)	SANParks – KNP Senior Roads Manager
Derek Visagie (DV)	SANParks – KNP Senior Manager : Civil & Building
Mr Gesan Govender (GG)	Envirolution Consulting - Environmental Consultant
Mr Thabang Sekele (TS)	Envirolution Consulting - Environmental Consultant

Item	<p style="text-align: center;">PROJECT MOTIVATION</p> <p>South African National Parks (hereafter "SANParks") is proposing the Shangoni Gate Development. This development will consist of the Shangoni visitor's entrance gate into the Kruger National Park (KNP), a reception facility; a new surfaced road of approximately 50,6 km in length with a road reserve wider than 13,5 m and three high level bridges where the road will span the Shingwedzi River twice and once over the Tshanga tributary. The development is coupled with a picnic site; camping site and tented rest camp. The entire activity is collectively referred to as "the Shangoni Gate Development". In terms of the National Environmental Management Regulations 2014, under sections 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) the proposed development requires authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs as the competent authority, as the proposed development triggers the activities and thresholds listed in Government Notice R983 and R985 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014. The aforesaid development is located within the Kruger National Park.</p> <p>The rationale behind the new gate is to stimulate socio-economic development among communities in the region and to provide easier access into the park from Giyani and Thohoyandou. Essentially, the proposed development will add a new gate midway between Pafuri Gate and Phalaborwa Gate to the KNP and provide access from the Giyani and Thulamela communities. The proposed development will potentially provide numerous economic possibilities which will mainly benefit the surrounding communities. The proposed development fits the tourism strategy of development of underdeveloped nodes of which one of the nearby communities has been identified as a presidential poverty node. It must be noted that this proposed Shangoni Gate development inside the Kruger National Park forms part of a larger Tourism Development Plan in the region that includes improved road access from Malamulele up to the proposed gate position, three-star lodges outside the park, heritage sites with business opportunities (old gold mine and other heritage sites), and commercial developments to cater for the potential traffic that will pass through the area, training opportunities, job creation and poverty alleviation.</p> <p>The existing gravel (restricted) ranger's road will be upgraded to a tar road that will allow visitors to travel towards the Shingwedzi and Mopani rest camps from the new gate. Most of the surfaced road will follow the alignment of the existing gravel road, apart from a new section near the proposed entrance gate and reception facility. Additionally, the entire Shangoni development will aim to offer many advantages to the surrounding rural communities such as providing a boost to tourism-oriented businesses and businesses whose focus is not directly related to tourism, such as filling stations or grocery stores. This development is envisioned to inject much needed tourist Rands into struggling local communities and can be developed into a sustainable means of economic development, bringing a potential year-round flow of income to the area. From a tourist point of view, the new gate entrance will introduce the tourist to a new cultural aspect of the Kruger National Park and help in developing an appreciation and understanding of an area's natural beauty, ecosystem, and cultural value.</p>
	ISSUES, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions <p>TS proceeded to welcome everybody present at the meeting and requested that everyone introduce themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions

	<p>Everyone present proceeded to introduce themselves.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of the meeting <p>TS indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to consult with the Competent Authority (Department of Environmental Affairs) in regards to ensuring environmental legislation is complied with prior to applying for environmental authorisation. TS further relayed the items of the agenda.</p> <p>DS and SD proceeded to outline the role of DEA and the importance in insuring that all environmental legislation needs to be complied with.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters of discussion <p>TS presented the project description and scope to the attendees. TS further outlines the listed activities applicable to the development.</p> <p>DS outlined the importance that all applicable listed activities must be applied for.</p> <p>SD further emphasized that there will be little tolerance for amendments in the future in regard to this project.</p> <p>AN indicated that the development will entail the construction of three high level bridges over the Shingwedzi river</p> <p>DS requested that all drainage line crossings be indicated on the layout maps and the coordinates thereof must be indicated too.</p> <p>GG assured that the indication of the drainage lines and coordinates will be provided in the layout maps.</p> <p>DS advised that the BAR must indicate that the development is in line with the SANParks Management Plan. DS further advised that the development must be in line with the KNP Zonation Plan.</p> <p>TLP assured that the development is consistent with the KNP Zonation Plan that was approved the DEA Minister. Indication of this will be included.</p> <p>DV advised that the development will also entail a loop access road along the Shingwedzi river loop and reiterated that the developments are low impact and will use green technology.</p> <p>SD advised that site plans / designs must be provided in the BAR. And the activity descriptions must talk to the listed activities in the Regulations.</p> <p>TS assured that this will be the case</p> <p>TS indicated that land claims issues will not have a negative bearing to the development because final resolutions have been reached. Only the Mapindani-Ngotsha have referred to the Land Claims Court.</p> <p>DS acknowledged and mentioned that the case being in the Land Claims Court does not mean that development cannot continue.</p> <p>SD emphasised the importance of staying within the prescribed timeframes stipulated in the regulations.</p>

4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General <p>None, as most general matters were already discussed</p>
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conclusion and way forward <p>DS requested that before the DBAR is released for public review, the environmental consultants must meet again with DEA to make sure proper legislation is followed. All the discussions and requirements that took place in the meeting are included in the BAR.</p>



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PRE APPLICATION MEETING

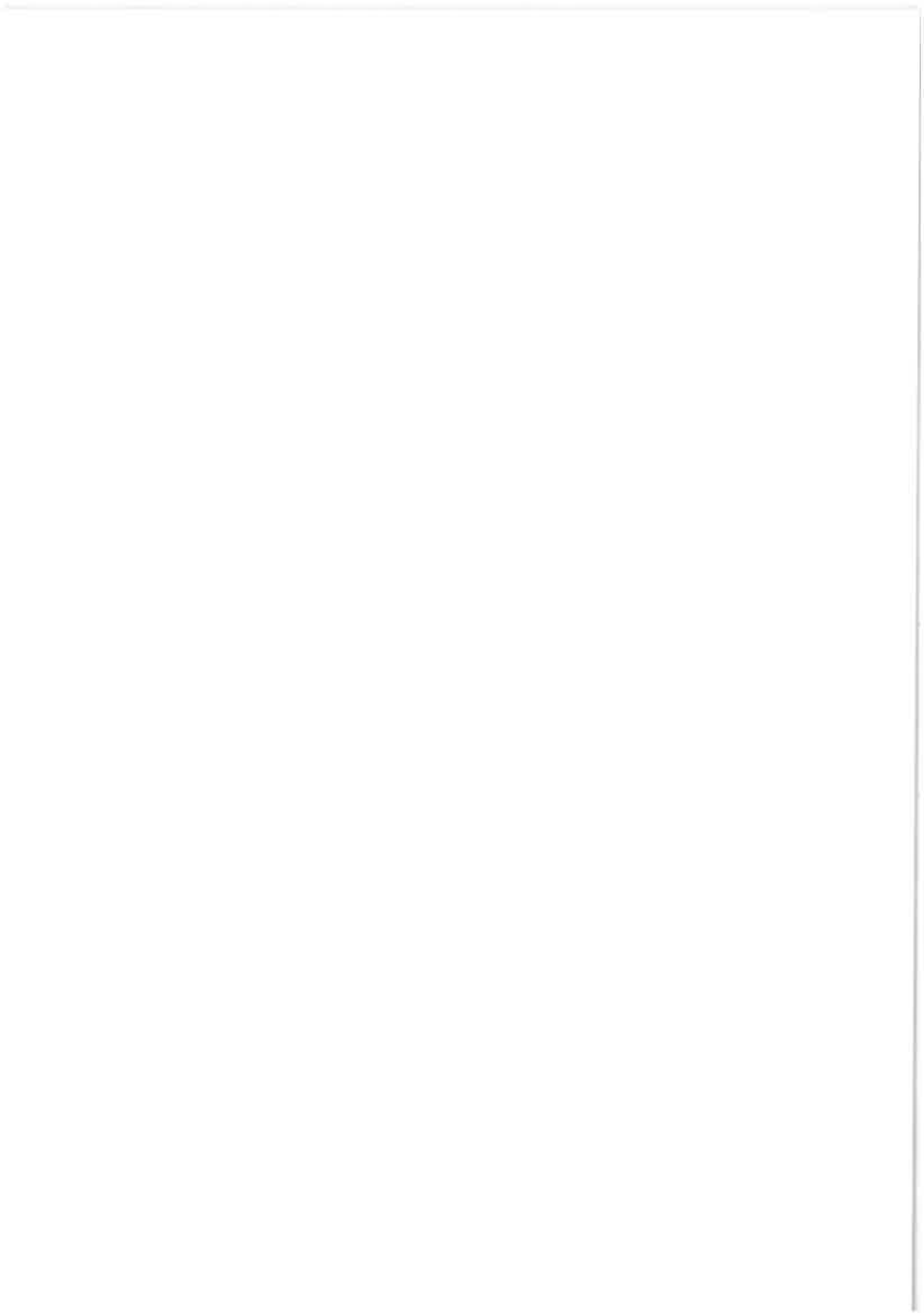
Project: SHANGONI GATE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Date: 26 September 2016

Time: 11:00

Venue: Environment House, Arcadia, Pretoria

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PRE-SUBMISSION MEETING

SANParks SHANGONI GATE DEVELOPMENT - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

AGENDA

VENUE : **SANParks Offices, 643 Leyds Street, Muckleneuk, Pretoria**

DATE : **28 October 2016**

TIME : **08h00**

Item	
1.	Welcome and Introduction
2.	Discussion of BAR
3.	Points of clarity from EAP
4.	Points of clarity from DEA
7.	Advice from DEA on way forward
8.	General



Documented Procedure

Prepared By: Thabang Sekele

Approved By: Gesan
Govender

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**SECOND PRE APPLICATION MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

SANParks SHANGONI GATE DEVELOPMENT - KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

- PROJECT** : PROPOSED SHANGONI GATE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.
- PURPOSE** : To consult with the Competent Authority (Department of Environmental Affairs) in regards to ensuring environmental legislation is complied with prior to applying for environmental authorisation.
- VENUE** : SANParks Offices, 643 Leyds Street, Muckleneuk, Pretoria
- DATE** : 28 October 2016 at 08h00

ATTENDEES	
Name	
Danie Smit (DS)	Department of Environmental Affairs
Vincent Chauke (VC)	Department of Environmental Affairs
Thomas Mudauadzo (TM)	Department of Environmental Affairs
Magodi Rofniwa (MR)	Department of Environmental Affairs
Tracy-Lee Petersen (TLP)	SANParks – KNP Strategic Conservation Planner and Environmental Manager
Aurel Nyambi (AN)	SANParks – KNP Senior Roads Manager
Blake Schraader (BS)	SANParks – KNP Senior Manager : Civil & Building

Mr Gesan Govender (GG)	Envirolution Consulting - Environmental Consultant
Mr Thabang Sekele (TS)	Envirolution Consulting - Environmental Consultant
Item	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PROJECT MOTIVATION</u></p> <p>South African National Parks (hereafter "SANParks") is proposing the Shangoni Gate Development. This development will consist of the Shangoni visitor's entrance gate into the Kruger National Park (KNP), a reception facility; a new surfaced road of approximately 50,6 km in length with a road reserve wider than 13,5 m and three high level bridges where the road will span the Shingwedzi River twice and once over the Tshanga tributary. The development is coupled with a picnic site; camping site and tented rest camp. The entire activity is collectively referred to as "the Shangoni Gate Development". In terms of the National Environmental Management Regulations 2014, under sections 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) the proposed development requires authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs as the competent authority, as the proposed development triggers the activities and thresholds listed in Government Notice R983 and R985 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014. The aforesaid development is located within the Kruger National Park.</p> <p>The rationale behind the new gate is to stimulate socio-economic development among communities in the region and to provide easier access into the park from Giyani and Thohoyandou. Essentially, the proposed development will add a new gate midway between Pafuri Gate and Phalaborwa Gate to the KNP and provide access from the Giyani and Thufamela communities. The proposed development will potentially provide numerous economic possibilities which will mainly benefit the surrounding communities. The proposed development fits the tourism strategy of development of underdeveloped nodes of which one of the nearby communities has been identified as a presidential poverty node. It must be noted that this proposed Shangoni Gate development inside the Kruger National Park forms part of a larger Tourism Development Plan in the region that includes improved road access from Malamulele up to the proposed gate position, three-star lodges outside the park, heritage sites with business opportunities (old gold mine and other heritage sites), and commercial developments to cater for the potential traffic that will pass through the area, training opportunities, job creation and poverty alleviation.</p> <p>The existing gravel (restricted) ranger's road will be upgraded to a tar road that will allow visitors to travel towards the Shingwedzi and Mopani rest camps from the new gate. Most of the surfaced road will follow the alignment of the existing gravel road, apart from a new section near the proposed entrance gate and reception facility. Additionally, the entire Shangoni development will aim to offer many advantages to the surrounding rural communities such as providing a boost to tourism-oriented businesses and businesses whose focus is not directly related to tourism, such as filling stations or grocery stores. This development is envisioned to inject much needed tourist Rands into struggling local communities and can be developed into a sustainable means of economic development, bringing a potential year-round flow of income to the area. From a tourist point of view, the new gate entrance will introduce the tourist to a new cultural aspect of the Kruger National Park and help in developing an appreciation and understanding of an area's natural beauty, ecosystem, and cultural value.</p>
	ISSUES, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions

	<p>TS proceeded to welcome everybody present at the meeting and requested that everyone introduce themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions <p>Everyone present proceeded to introduce themselves.</p>
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of the meeting <p>TS indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to consult with the Competent Authority (Department of Environmental Affairs) in regards to ensuring environmental legislation is complied with prior to applying for environmental authorisation. Also, to iron out a few technical issues regarding the project. TS further relayed the items of the agenda.</p> <p>VC requested for the project description and scope to be presented</p>
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters of discussion <p>TS briefly presented the project description and scope to the attendees. TS further outlined the listed activities applicable to the development and highlighted that some activities have been included to cover maintenance activities during operation so that there is no need to re-apply to DEA for these activities.</p> <p>VC indicated that more details should be included in the description of the alternatives in order to differentiate between them.</p> <p>TS acknowledged the comment</p> <p>GG further indicated that more detail will be included.</p> <p>BS proceeded to bring to attention to the three gate alternatives that SANParks prefers Gate entrance (Preferred Alternative) because it is technically feasible as per the pre-feasibility studies undertaken.</p> <p>TS indicated that the preferred gate alternative is profoundly linked to the outside Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) road developments currently taking place.</p> <p>BS added that if the preferred alternative gate position is not selected then SANParks and other stakeholders will lose out on the road development that RAL is undertaking.</p> <p>VC requested that the locality map be amended because gate position (Alternative 1) seems to be located slightly outside of the park.</p> <p>TS acknowledged the comment</p> <p>VC indicated the importance of the working of the project description and that it must be clear and consistent with the scope of the development.</p> <p>VC also indicated that the specialist studies should not indicate that further studies must take place in their reports.</p> <p>DS advised that all supporting documents related to this BAR must be included.</p>

	<p>DS further advised that a NEMBA Section 55 letter must be included in the BAR.</p> <p>VC advised that the EMPr must include specialist mitigations, CV's and declarations.</p> <p>VC further advised that copies of the DBAR must also go to Protected Areas and Biodiversity Sections</p>
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General <p>None, as most general matters were already discussed</p>
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion and way forward <p>DS and VC advised that it must be made sure that all legislative processes are followed in this entire Environmental Impact Assessment process..</p> <p>DEA to receive three copies of DBAR, one to DEA Main, one to Protected Areas and one to Biodiversity Sections.</p>



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PRE SUBMISSION MEETING

Project: SHANGONI GATE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Date: 28 October 2016

Time: 08:00

Venue: SANParts Offices, 643 Leyds Street, Muckleneuk, Pretoria

NAME AND SURNAME	AFFILIATION	TEL NO	CELLPHONE	FAX NO/EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
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