

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

SECTION 24G ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR ACTIVITIES COMMENCED WITH AT EKLAND SAFARIS, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT

AURECON REFERENCE NO: 113527/24G

LEDET REF: 12/1/9/S24G-V33

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to register as interested and affected parties for the Section 24G Environmental Authorisation process and to obtain their initial comments on the project.

The decision-making authority is the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and Department of Water and Sanitation in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and Section 21 of the National Water Act, 1998.

Please register yourself as an interested and affected party and submit your comments on the proposed project.

Either complete a Response Form, write a letter, call or e-mail the public participation office.

Public Participation office

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**YOUR COMMENT IS
IMPORTANT**

Your comment on any aspect of the proposed project, its public participation process and issues that need to be investigated, will help focus the process and assist the authorities in their decision-making.

Background

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Manupont (Pty) Ltd, to provide environmental services for the Section 24G Environmental Authorisation Application, for all activities commenced with at Ekland Safaris prior to obtaining the respective Environmental Authorisation. The activities involved the upgrading and refurbishment of the existing accommodation facilities as well as the upgrading of the fence. The upgrading and refurbishment included the following:

- Fencing activities:
 - The establishment of a double fence with a patrol road of 4m wide;
 - Construction of storm water structures as stream crossings to ensure stability of the patrol road during rainy season.
- Upgrading of the Main Lodge:
 - Refurbishment of 15 existing buildings;
 - Construction of two new chalets, clinic, the owner's villa, an exterior lift between the Main Lodge chalets and the owner's villa, reservoir, as well as buildings for laundry, staff accommodation and goods being received.
- Upgrading of Pienaar Lodge:
 - Upgrading of 7 existing units;
 - Construction of four additional buildings, laundry, staff accommodation and reservoir.
- Resurfacing of the existing air strip:
 - Resurfacing and increasing the width of the existing airstrip with 23m.
- Patel Gate:
 - Construction of changing rooms with shower facilities (30m x 10m) and the placement of 20 refrigerated containers that would serve as a delivery and distribution centre to the lodge.

The Main Lodge of Ekland Safaris is located at the following coordinates:

22°49'43.70"S

29°49'54.95"E

Legal Requirements

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, Regulation GN 983 and GN 985 of 2014 (as amended in 2017), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), lists activities which may not commence without a BA process and environmental authorisation from the competent authority, in this case the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).

With the information available, the relevant listed activities which required Environmental Authorisation prior to commencement, read as follows:

<p><u>GNR 983, of June 2014 (as amended in 2017)</u></p>	<p><u>Activity 12</u> – Development of bridges/infrastructure within a watercourse</p> <p><u>Activity 19</u> - The infilling, excavation or moving of soil of more than 10 cubic metres from or within a watercourse</p> <p><u>Activity 31</u> - The decommissioning of existing facilities, structures or infrastructure for –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Any development and related operation activity or activities listed in Listing Notice 1, 2 or 3 of 2014; (ii) Any expansion and related operation activity or activities listed in Listing Notice 1, 2 or 3 of 2014 <p><u>Activity 48</u> - The expansion of</p> <p>(v) infrastructure or structures where the bridge is expanded by 100 square metres or more in size within</p> <p>(a) a watercourse</p>
<p><u>GNR 985, of June 2014 (as amended in 2017)</u></p>	<p><u>Activity 6</u> - The development of a resorts, lodges, hotels, tourism or hospitality facilities that sleeps 15 people or more</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(ee) within Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans</p> <p><u>Activity 8</u> - The development and related operation of above ground cableways and funiculars outside urban areas</p> <p><u>Activity 12</u> - The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation within critical biodiversity areas</p> <p><u>Activity 14</u> - The development of infrastructure or structures with a footprint of 10 square metres or more within a watercourse</p>

WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATION

Section 21 of the National Water Act 36 of 1998, lists activities which requires a Water Use License Application prior to commencement of such activities. With the information available, a Water Use License will be required for the following listed activities:

- Section 21 (a): Taking water from a water resource;
- Section 21 (b): Storage of water
- Section 21 (c): Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;
- Section 21 (g): Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource:
- Section 21 (i): Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

Please note that some project details may change as engineering investigations proceed.

Process to be followed

A Section 24G Environmental Authorisation Application was submitted to Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) on 11 October 2018 and subsequently, the LEDET requested that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be compiled in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014.

Consideration of authority and stakeholder comments forms an intrinsic part of this process and during the public participation phase, all stakeholders and interested and affected parties will be given a 30-day comment period within which the Draft EIR can be reviewed prior to the submission of the final EIR to LEDET.

Once LEDET has made a decision, all registered I&APs will be notified of the decision and where the decision will be available for review.

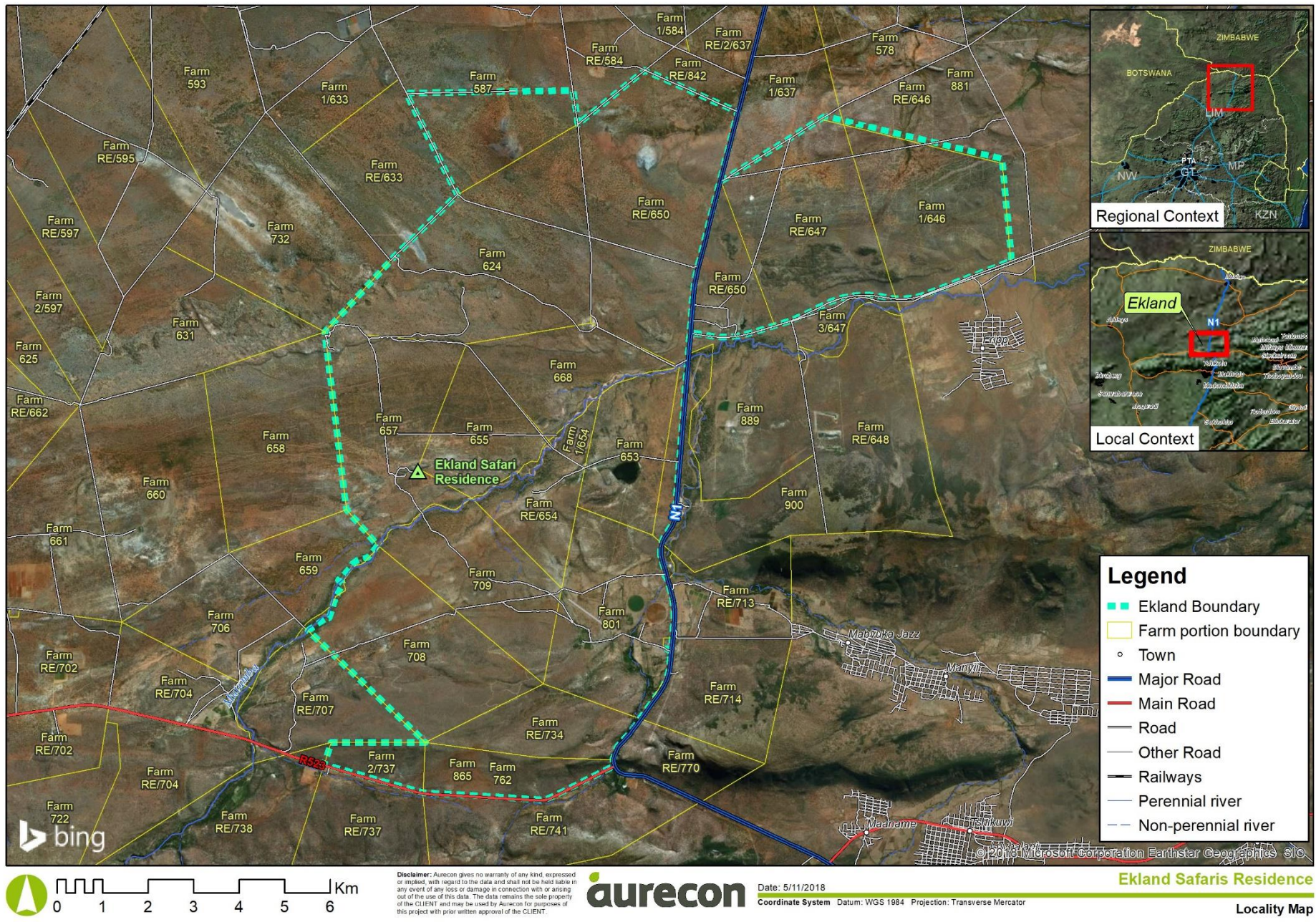


Figure 1: Locality map of Ekland Safaris, Limpopo Province

Section24G Environmental Authorisation process for the
Upgrading and refurbishment of facilities at Ekland Safaris,
Limpopo Province
INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT, JANUARY 2019

Please complete and return to Aurecon in order to be included in the
public participation process:

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TITLE		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
TEL NUMBER		FAX NUMBER	
CELL NUMBER			
E-MAIL			

Yes, I would like to participate in this Basic Assessment YES

No, I am not interested NO

COMMENTS: (please use separate sheets if you wish)

1. The following issues must be considered in the Basic Assessment process:
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2. Please add the following people / organisations to the mailing list:
.....
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We thank you for your participation