

Meeting Record

Project number	113527	Meeting date	2019-01-25
Project name	Section 24G Environmental Authorisation Application for Ekland Safaris	Recorded by	Anne-Mari White
Meeting/subject	Meeting with Mulambwane CPA	Total pages	3

Present	Apology	Copy	Name	Organisation	Contact details
V			Anne-Mari White (AMW)	Aurecon	060 878 1591
$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$			Smanga Sethene (SS)	On behalf of Backer Mckenzie	082 933 7160
$\overline{\checkmark}$			Graham Moon (GM)	Ekland Safaris	082 332 8300
$\overline{\checkmark}$			Itumeleng Mukhovha (IM)	Backer Mackenzie	078 408 2112
$\overline{\checkmark}$			Prof. Thanyani Mariba (TM)	Mulambwane CPA	083 640 5434
$\overline{\checkmark}$			Dorcus Mboyi (DM)	Mulambwane CPA	079 514 9745
$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$			Helen Dagut (HD)	Consultant for Baker McKenzie	079 069 3282
\square			Gladys Shabangu (GS)	Mulambwane CPA	082 579 9820
\square			Aubrey Luvha (AL)	Mulambwane CPA	082 403 5203

Item	Topic
1.1	AW opened the meeting and lead the introductions
1.2	AMW explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss various environmental issues that were raised by the Mulambwane CPA (MCPA) and also to discuss legal matters relating to the land claims gazetted for Sulphur Springs 653 MS, Pienaar 624 MS, and Sandylands 708 MS, which falls within the boundaries of Ekland Safaris.
1.3	GM requested more information about the MCPA, the extent of the CPA, who it represents, when the CPA was constituted and how the MCPA fits into the geography of the area. AL indicated that the MCPA was registered in 2008 and 101 farms have been claimed of which only 14 were returned. Other farms which forms part of Ekland Safaris were also claimed and gazetted but are still in process and have not yet been returned. The MCPA has over 800 beneficiaries whose forefathers came from the specified area. TN added to explain that in 1968, there was a concern of too many black people on white farms. This resulted in excess people to be moved to the homelands so that very few black people remained on the farms. Those who remained were also buried on those farms.
1.3	AMW gave a background of the proposed application as well as the Section 24G process undertaken for the activities which have commenced. She explained the different environmental processes and indicated that the process currently undertaken for Ekland Safaris, is a retrospective process as the activities already commenced. The Section 24G Environmental process entailed a site visit from the Competent Authority, Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), whereby recommendations were made in terms of documentation required to be submitted for authorisation. AW added that the activities commenced with, included only the refurbishment and upgrading of existing facilities (lodges, fencing and airstrip), however the upgrading of these facilities did require Environmental Authorisation as it is a listed activity in terms of the National Environmental Management



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	the impa	of 1998 (NEMA 107 of 1998). All information with regards to activities commenced with and act thereof, will be included within the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will ibuted to all interested and affected parties (I&AP's) for review.	
1.4	AW discussed the letter from MCPA which was submitted to Aurecon and confirmed the following with regards to the issues raised:		
	1.	MCPA wanted confirmation that they are registered for both the Environmental Impact Assessment process as well as Water Use Licensing process. AW confirmed that the Water Use Licensing process runs parallel with the Environmental Impact Assessment Process and that the MCPA have been registered for both processes;	
	2.	Questions were also raised about MCPA not being informed of the purchasing of the Ekland Safaris property. AW explained that Aurecon, as independent consultant for the client, was not involved during the purchasing of the property and for this reason Aurecon cannot provide comments with regards to the purchasing. GM asked whether the claim for the properties within Ekland Safaris were submitted within the initial submission or were it claimed at a later stage under the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014 ("the Amendment Act"). GM added that information received by the Limpopo Land Rights Department confirmed that claims submitted under the Amendment Act still requires research and is pending and the Department confirmed that those claims would be researched once the backlog for the first process has been completed. AL and TM confirmed that all the claims were all submitted within the initial submission prior to 1998 and not under the Amendment Act. GM indicated that the information received from the Department differs from the information that is being provided. GM suggested that himself and MCPA have a meeting with the Department to resolve this issue, because if the Department registered the claims under the Amendment Act, it becomes a very long process.	
	3.	MCPA required clarification on how the LEDET allowed the development to take place without the necessary environmental authorisation being in place. AW explained that construction activities did commence without environmental authorisation and subsequently the LEDET visited the site and requested that the Section 24G Environmental Authorisation process be followed in terms of the NEMA 107, 1998.	
	4.	MCPA asked whether the operation stopped while the 24G Environmental Application is being processed. AW confirmed that the LEDET requested that some activities seize until a decision has been made by LEDET, however there was no request from the LEDET that all construction activities should seize. HD added that there is no legal requirement that activities should stop when a Section 24G Application is lodged. The LEDET can require that activities be stopped but the application for the Section 24G process does not automatically imply that activities should seize.	
	5.	MCPA raised various questions with regards to the procurement process and local labour during the construction and operational phase. AW indicated that all of these questions would be addressed within the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will be distributed for review.	
	6.	MCPA requested various specialist studies to be conducted in order to determine the impact on sensitive environments. AW explained that the purpose of a specialist investigation, is to minimize the impact on sensitive environments during the construction and operational phase prior to impacting the area. When a specialist investigation is conducted, the specialist requires a baseline against which the impact of certain activities can be assessed. Once an area has already been transformed, the purpose of a specialist investigation becomes insignificant as the impact already occurred. AW explained that the activities mostly involved the upgrading of existing facilities and therefore the area was previously transformed. She	



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	added that an Ecologist was appointed to conduct a study on an area which was highlighted by the LEDET to be of concern and this report will form part of the submission to the LEDET. With regards to the request for a Heritage and Palaeontological Assessment, the same applies as the specialist would not be able to identify any artefacts or palaeontological sites on areas which have already been transformed, however the Heritage Specialist will be appointed to identify existing graves within the boundaries of Ekland and propose means of access to these graves. This report will also be included within the Draft EIA Report for I&AP review.	
1.5	TN asked whether all developments at Ekland Safaris took place without an Environmental Authorisation. AW explained that some activities commenced in August 2017 without the required approvals, however, other planned activities are currently following the required authorisation processes.	
1.6	AL requested that a public meeting be held after the distribution of the Draft EIR. AW confirmed that a public meeting will be scheduled after the distribution of the Draft EIR whereby all I&AP's will be invited.	
1.7	GM indicated that communication with adjacent property owners have been poor and Ekland Safaris will be making an increased effort to communicate with the surrounding community and adjacent property owners.	
1.8	DM requested that other stakeholders also be informed of the activities and the process. AW request that contact details be provided in order to include the details on the I&AP register.	
1.9	The environmental aspects concerning the activities at Ekland Safaris was concluded.	