

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSED LODGE AT LION FARM, EKLAND SAFARIS, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT

AURECON REFERENCE NO: 113527/LION FARM LODGE

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 in the Basic Assessment process and to obtain their initial comments on the proposed project.

The purpose of the Basic Assessment is to identify and evaluate feasible alternatives and potential impacts, and to recommend measures to avoid or reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. The decision-making authority is the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.

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, the Basic Assessment, 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 Basic Assessment Process (BA), Water Use License and respective specialist studies for the proposed construction of a 60-sleeper lodge on the remainder of the farm Juliana 647 MS and portion 1 of the farm Coen Brits 646 MS, within the boundaries of the Lion Farm, located at Ekland Safari's, Louis Trichardt, Limpopo Province.

Legal Requirements

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, Regulation GN 324 and GN 327 of 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 read as follows:

- **GN 327 of 2017, Activity 12:** "The development of structures and/or infrastructure with a physical footprint of 100 square meters or more, where such development occurs –
 - (a) Within a watercourse.
- **GN 327 of 2017, Activity 19:** "The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from –
 - (i) A watercourse.
- **GN 327 of 2017, Activity 27:** "The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance is required for –
 - (i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or
 - (ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.
- **GN 324 of 2017, Activity 6:** "The development of resorts, lodges, hotels and tourism or hospitality facilities that sleeps 15 people or more within the specific areas identified in the systematic biodiversity or bioregional plans"

- **GN 324 of 2017, Activity 2:** “The development of reservoirs for bulk water supply with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres:
 - Within Limpopo (iii) outside urban areas, within (dd) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.
- **GN 324 of 2017, Activity 12:** “The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan:
 - Within (a) Limpopo, within (i) critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.
- **GN 324 of 2017, Activity 14:** “The development of (xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more where such development occurs within a (a) watercourse
 - Within (a) Limpopo, (ii) outside urban areas, in (ff) critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.

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.

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Notice is hereby given that an application for a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) will be lodged with the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of Limpopo (LHRA).

Section 38(1) of the South African Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) requires that a heritage study is undertaken for:

- (a) Construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length;
- (b) Construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length; and
- (c) Any development, or other activity which will change the character of an area of land, or water –
 - (1) Exceeding 10 000 m² in extent;

- (2) Involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
- (3) Involving three or more erven, or subdivisions thereof, which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
- (d) The costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations; or
- (e) Any other category of development provided for in regulations.

While the above describes the parameters of developments that fall under this Act., Section 38 (8) of the NHRA is applicable to this development. This section states that;

- (8) *The provisions of this section do not apply to a development as described in subsection (1) if an evaluation of the impact of such development on heritage resources is required in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989), or the integrated environmental management guidelines issued by the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, or the Minerals Act, 1991 (Act 50 of 1991), or any other legislation: Provided that the consenting authority must ensure that the evaluation fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority in terms of subsection (3), and any comments and recommendations of the relevant heritage resources authority with regard to such development have been taken into account prior to the granting of the consent.*

In regard to a development such as this that falls under Section 38 (8) of the NHRA, the requirements of Section 38 (3) applies to the subsequent reporting, stating that;

- (3) *The responsible heritage resources authority must specify the information to be provided in a report required in terms of subsection (2) (a): Provided that the following must be included:*
 - (a) *The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected;*
 - (b) *An assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in section 6 (2) or prescribed under section 7;*
 - (c) *An assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources;*
 - (d) *An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development;*
 - (e) *The results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources;*
 - (f) *If heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives; and*
 - (g) *Plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.*
 - (1) Ancestral graves,
 - (2) Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders,
 - (3) Graves of victims of conflict (iv) graves of important individuals,
 - (4) Historical graves and cemeteries older than 60 years, and

(5) Other human remains which are not covered under the Human Tissues Act, 1983 (Act No.65 of 1983 as amended);

(h) Movable objects, including;

- (1) Objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
- (2) Ethnographic art and objects;
- (3) Military objects;
- (4) Objects of decorative art;
- (5) Objects of fine art;
- (6) Objects of scientific or technological interest;
- (7) Books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings; and
- (8) Any other prescribed categories, but excluding any object made by a living person;
 - (i) Battlefields;
 - (j) Traditional building techniques.

A **'place'** is defined as:

- (a) A site, area or region;
- (b) A building or other structure (which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such building or other structure);
- (c) A group of buildings or other structures (which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such group of buildings or other structures); and (d) an open space, including a public square, street or park; and in relation to the management of a place, includes the immediate surroundings of a place.

'Structures' means any building, works, device, or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land and any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith older than 60 years.

'Archaeological' means:

- (a) Material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;
- (b) Rock art, being a form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and is older than 100 years including any area within 10 m of such representation; and
- (c) Wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land or in the maritime cultural zone referred to in section 5 of the Maritime Zones Act 1994 (Act 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which are older than 60 years or which in terms of national legislation are considered to be worthy of conservation;

(d) Features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found.

'Paleontological' means any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace.

'Grave' means a place of interment and includes the contents, headstone or other marker of and any other structures on or associated with such place. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) will only issue a permit for the alteration of a grave if it is satisfied that every reasonable effort has been made to contact and obtain permission from the families concerned.

The removal of graves is subject to the following procedures as outlined by the SAHRA:

- Notification of the impending removals (using English, Afrikaans and local language media and notices at the grave site);
- Consultation with individuals or communities related or known to the deceased;
- Satisfactory arrangements for the curation of human remains and / or headstones in a museum, where applicable;
- Procurement of a permit from the SAHRA;
- Appropriate arrangements for the exhumation (preferably by a suitably trained archaeologist) and re-interment (sometimes by a registered undertaker, in a formally proclaimed cemetery);
- Observation of rituals or ceremonies required by the families.

The limitations and assumptions associated with this heritage impact assessment are as follows;

- Field investigations were performed on foot and by vehicle where access was readily available.
- Sites were evaluated by means of description of the cultural landscape, direct observations and analysis of written sources and available databases.
- It was assumed that the site layout as provided by LEAP is accurate.
- We assumed that the public participation process performed as part of the Basic Assessment process was sufficiently encompassing not to be repeated in the Heritage Assessment Phase.

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

What is a Basic Assessment?

A BA is a short environmental impact assessment process used to identify and assess potential negative and positive consequences of a proposed project and recommend ways to enhance positive impacts and to avoid or reduce negative impacts. The BA process will include:

- a) Stakeholder engagement;
- b) Assessment of current site conditions;
- c) A description of the proposed activity;
- d) Description of the environment which may be affected;
- e) Description of the need and desirability of the proposed activity and identification of alternatives;
- f) Assessment of all environmental impacts identified;
- g) Authority decision-making process and a public appeal opportunity will occur after this phase.

Process to be followed

Consideration of authority and stakeholder comments forms an intrinsic part of this process. In terms of the Basic Assessment process, authority decision-making and a public appeal opportunity will occur after the submission of the final Basic Assessment Report to LEDET.

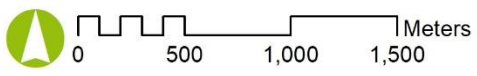
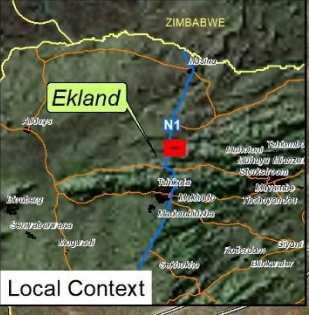
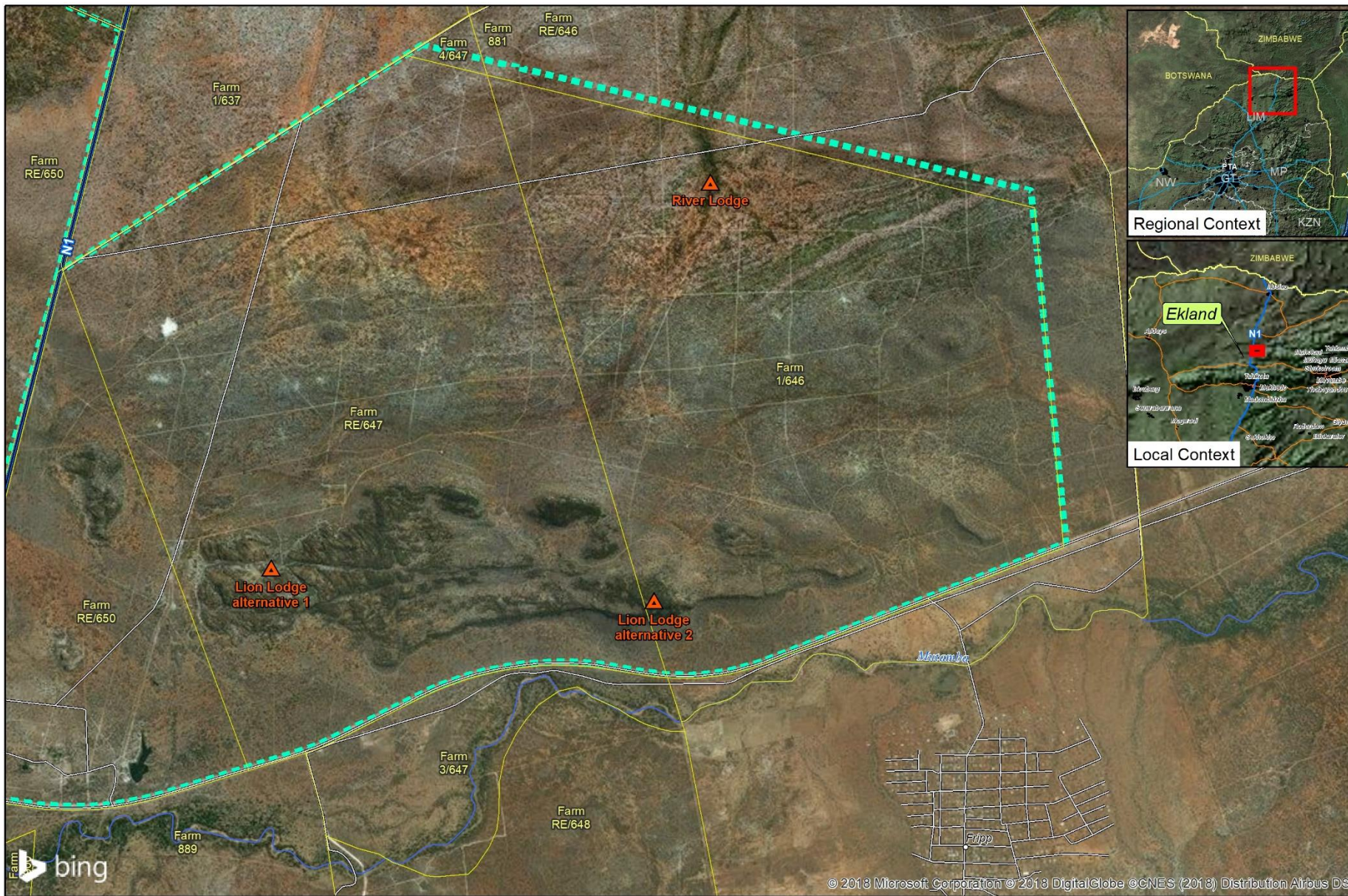
During the public participation phase, consultation with the following parties will take place:

- o Relevant authorities at various levels;
- o Relevant stakeholders;
- o The proponent; and
- o The public at large.

The following activities will take place as part of public participation:

- o Advertising: On-site and in a local newspaper;
- o Supplying people with an opportunity to comment and register as interested and affected parties; and
- o The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available for public review. I&APs will be notified when the document will be available for review and will then have a 30-day opportunity to comment on the draft report prior to submission to the LEDET for consideration;

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



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Date: 2018-07-27
 Coordinate System Datum: WGS 1984 Projection: Transverse Mercator

Lion Lodge
Alternatives Map

Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed lodge at Lion Farm, Ekland Safaris

Environmental Basic Assessment for the
Proposed lodge at Lion Farm, Ekland Safaris, Limpopo Province
INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT, August 2018

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)

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