

PROPOSED LOG CABINS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES AT OORLOGSKLOOF NATURE RESERVE, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

Reference Number: DEAT 1/2000/1764)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT-BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PRUPROSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) with background information about the proposed project and introduce the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to be followed. It also aims to inform IAPs on how to fully participate in the EIA and encourages active attendance at meetings and response to documents distributed for review.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The National Department of Environmental Affairs is funding for the development of overnight sleeping/camping facilities at the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve. The project in general involves the alteration of overnight camping tents into 15 sleeper log cabins with showers and toilets that drain into septic tanks. The log cabins will be built at 10 different locations within the Nature Reserve. Other activities will be solar energy and boreholes and/or rain water tanks, upgrading of the existing access road by installation of hyson cells and provision of stream crossings, upgrading of hiking trails by clearing of grass and debris, upgrading of stream crossings and provision of new direction signage.

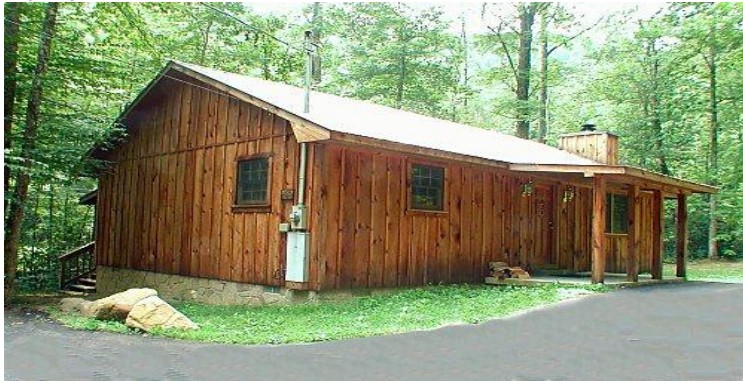


Fig 1: Example of log cabin

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed project has been identified in the EIA Regulations 2010, as an activity which may not commence without environmental authorisation from the competent authority, in this case the National Department of Environmental Affairs. The specific activities that require authorisation are identified as follows in terms of Government Notices R544 and R546 of 2010:

Notice R544

Activity No. 11 (iii)

The construction of...bridges,.....buildings exceeding 50 square metres, where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such development will occur behind a development setback line.

Notice R546

Activity No. 6 (a)ii(aa)

The construction of resorts, lodges or other tourism accommodation facilities that sleep 15 people or more outside urban areas, in a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies.

Activity No 16(iii)(a)ii (aa)

The construction of buildings with a footprint exceeding 10 square metres in size; or 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 development will occur behind a development setback line, outside urban areas, in a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies.

Other Environmental laws/acts will also apply. These acts include: NEM: Protected Areas Act (Act No.57 of 2003), NEM: Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998), NEM: Biodiversity Act (Act No.10 of 2004), and National Heritage Resources Act (Act No.25 of 1999).

THE EIA PROCESS

Structure of EIA Process

The EIA is a legislative tool used to ensure that the potential impacts that may occur due to the proposed development are avoided or mitigated. In terms of South African legislation the environment includes, social, economic and bio-physical aspects that the EIA should assess equitably.

The EIA process is will be followed for this development is a Basic Assessment Process. This process will be done in three phases, namely Scoping Phase, Public Participation and Environmental Impact Assessment Phase.

Scoping phase

The Scoping Phase aims to:

- Investigate and gather information on the proposed sites, in order to establish an understanding of the area;
- Establish how the proposed development activities will potentially impact on the environment;
- Identify IAPs and relevant authorities by conducting a PPP
- Identify potential environmental impacts through investigation and PPP; and
- Describe proposed and potential impacts and the alternatives.

Impact Assessment Phase

During this phase, all issues and proposed alternatives identified in the Scoping Phase are assessed and are rated in terms of their significance. Where necessary, mitigation measures are recommended to reduce the significance of potential impacts. An Environmental Management Programme will also be compiled that will prescribe environmental specifications to be adhered to during the construction phase of the project.

Public Participation Process (PPP)

The Purpose of PPP

The PPP aims to inform a wide range of Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) about the proposed project and the environmental authorisation process to be followed. It is a tool that will allow the public to exchange information and to express their views and concerns on the proposed development for which the EIA is being conducted. All contributions from IAPs will be fully documented, evaluated and responded to in the EIA. The PPP assists in identifying potential issues that will help focus and enhance decision-making. The EIA will be open and transparent to the public through this process. All registered IAP's will be continuously updated on events & activities throughout the EIA process.

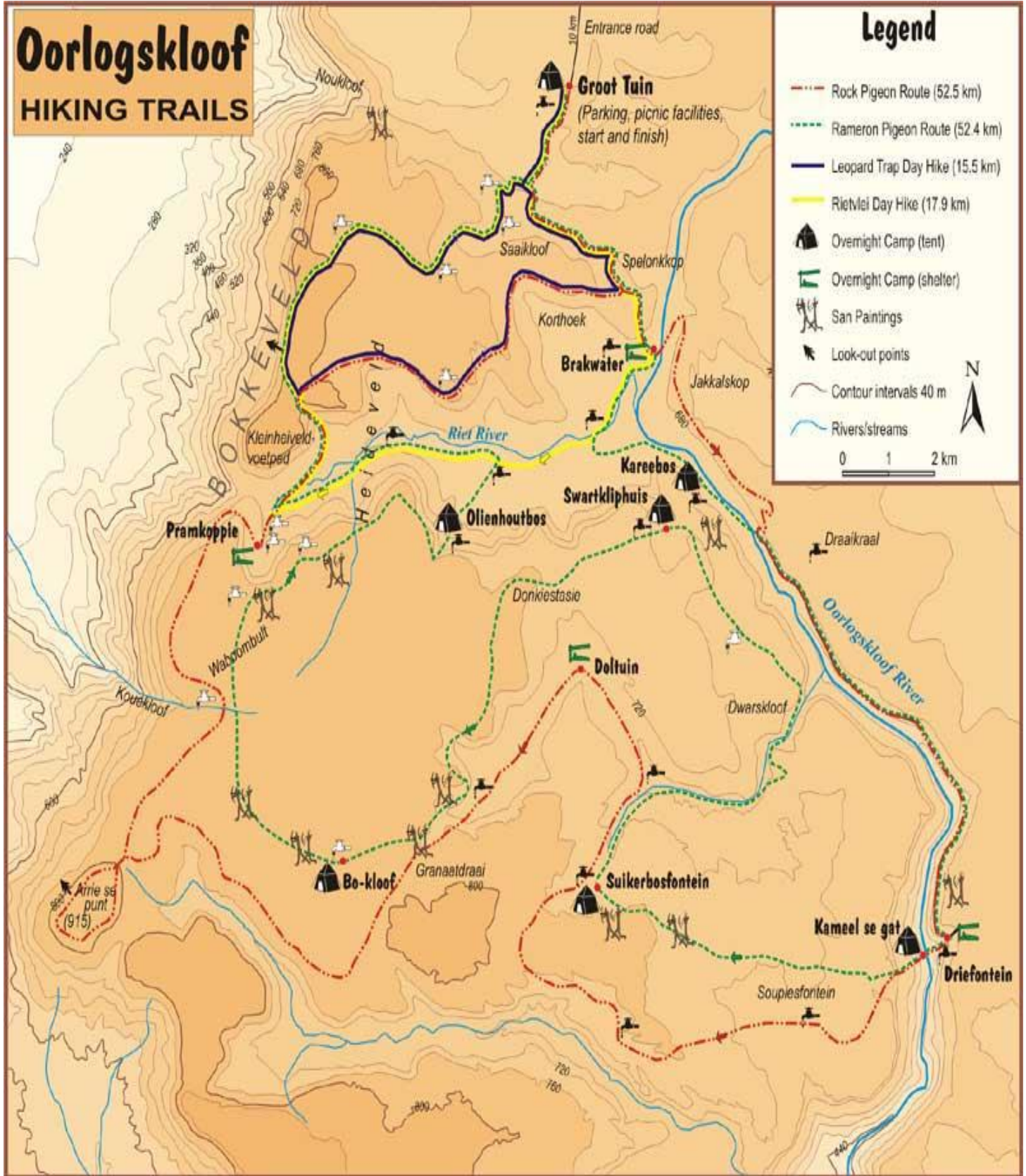
Activities of the Public Participation Process

The public will be invited to register as an IAP and take part in the PPP through:

- o Media Notices placed in local newspapers
- o Site displayboard notices
- o Distribution of BID
- o Distribution of a comments form

- Stakeholder meetings ,if necessary
- □ Distribution of Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for public comment

MAP OF OORLOGSKLOOF NATURE RESERVE



Overnight camps (tents and some shelters) will be upgraded into log cabins with all the necessary ablutions, water, and solar electricity.

COMMENT AND REGISTRATION SHEET

In order to ensure that you are kept up to date with the project, please ensure that you register as an I&AP with IKAMVA Consulting. To register as an I&AP, kindly contact Mr. Thulani Gweje of IKAMVA Consulting, by using the following contact details: Please fill in the comments sheet below and send it back.

IKAMVA Consulting.
 Mr. T. Gweje/Mr. T.P.Babane
 P O Box 1217
 Mthatha, 5099
 Fax: 086 626 8914
 Tel: 047 5314044/6
 Email: thulani@kamva.co.za

TITLE		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION		EMAIL	
POSTAL ADDRESS			
TELEPHONE NUMBER		POSTAL CODE	
Please formally register me as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) so that I may receive further information and notifications during the EIA process.			
I would like my notifications by		Letter Email Telephone/Cellphone Fax	
I would like to receive documents for comments by		Paper copies Email CD	
In terms of the EIA process regulations, I disclose below any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that I may have in the approval or refusal of the application:			

COMMENTS (please use separate sheets if you wish)

I suggest that the following issues of concern be investigated in the Environmental Impact Assessment:

.....

Any other comments:

.....

Please ask the following of my colleagues/friends to register as I&APs for this project:

.....

Thank you for your contribution

