

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF UPMARKET TOURISM ACCOMMODATION ON THE SELATI RAILWAY BRIDGE

Our Ref: 12424



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 12424

Date: Thursday July 05, 2018

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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8), 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Kruger Selati (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 6 Skukuza 1350

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF UPMARKET TOURISM ACCOMMODATION ON THE SELATI RAILWAY BRIDGE, SKUKUZA, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Kruger Selati (Pty) Ltd, proposing to develop an Up-Market tourism accommodation facility named Kruger Shalati, adjacent to the Selati Railway Bridge in Skukuza, in the Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province. They also proposing to rehabilitate a historical train carriage to turn it into a restaurant for overnight guests.

EMROSS Consulting (Pty) Ltd have been appointed by Kruger Selati (Pty) Ltd to undertake a Basic Assessment (BAR) process in support of an Environmental Authorisation application in terms of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2014 Regulations, of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA). They have submitted a Draft BAR, and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Archaetnos Heritage, to SAHRA for commenting in terms of section 38 (8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Van Vollenhoven, A.C. March 2018. A Report on a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the Proposed Development of Upmarket Tourism Accommodation on the Selati Railway Bridge, Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province.

The author undertook a field survey of the farms for the TGME mine right area and identified 3 heritage sites. Site 1 is: The Selati Railway Bridge constructed by NZASM, as one of the first railway projects the government commissioned, in 1912.

Site 2 is: The Steam Locomotive, it was built in 1949 and decommissioned in 1972. This train was donated to SanParks in 1978. Two of the carriages burnt down in 1995. This site is listed as having Very High significance due to it being the only locomotive left in the country of this time period. The carriages are going to be restored into accommodation carriages, with a max of 10 carriages house 76 people.

Site 3 is: Steinaecker's Horses' Sabi Bridge post house was built when a volunteer army unit was stationed there in 1902. This site is also over 100 years in age and will be impacted by the proposed development. The author recommends

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SAHRA Archaeology Palaeontology Meteorites Unit in consultation with the SAHRA Built Environment Unit determines the overall impact of the rehabilitation of all three sites is a positive mitigation measure and has no objections to this project.

SAHRA accepts the recommendation provided in the HIA and the BAR regarding the appointment of an archaeologist or an architectural historian to monitor construction and restoration activities. A section 35 permit in terms of Chapter IV of the NHRA Regulations will be required before any work commences.

The area is located in an insignificant palaeontological area with a low chance of uncovering fossiliferous rocks. SAHRA exempts the development from undertaking a palaeontological assessment.

If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.

If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8652).

If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490).

All the appendices to the BAR must be uploaded to the case and this comment must be forwarded to the competent authority. The Record of Decision must be uploaded to the case once it is available.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/503446>
(MDEDET, Ref:)

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.