

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE RECREATIONAL AND TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, GANSPAN-PAN WETLAND RESERVE, PHOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT & INVITATION TO COMMENT

Introduction

Notice is hereby given in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended) of the proposed development of a recreational and tourist area at the Ganspan-Pan Wetland Reserve (formerly the Ganspan Waterfowl Nature Reserve) situated on Holding 476 of Vaalharts Settlement B, located approximately 6.5 km west of Jan Kempdorp, within the Northern Cape Province (Figure 1). This process will be conducted as per the 2014 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations (as amended in April 2017) and will trigger a Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process, in accordance with regulation 21 to 23 as published in GNR. 982 (as amended by GNR. 326).

EOH Coastal & Environmental Services (EOH CES) has been appointed by the Frances Baard District Municipality (FBDM) to apply for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the abovementioned regulations by means of conducting an S&EIR process.

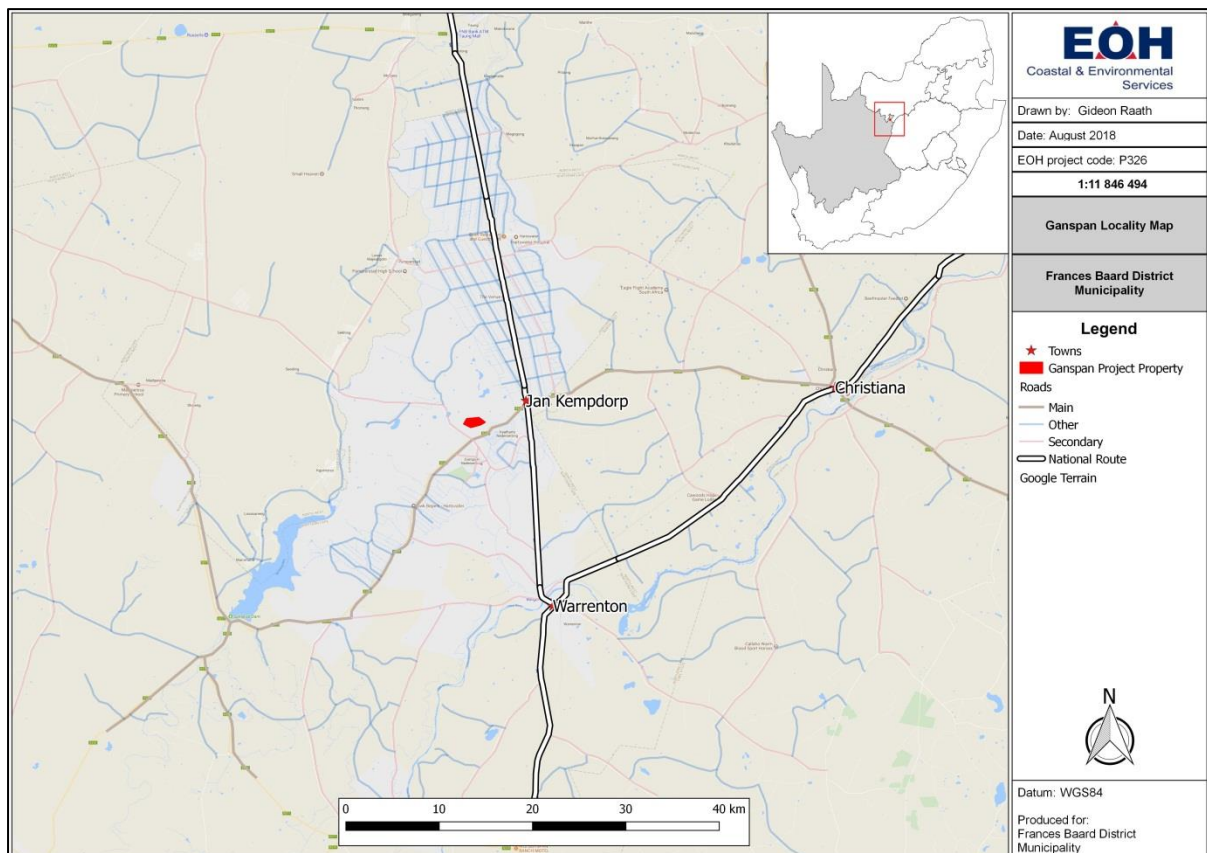


Figure 1: Locality plan of the proposed development.

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Locality and current land use

The proposed development is situated approximately 90 km north of Kimberley, located within the Phokwane Local Municipality, seated within the FBDM of the Northern Cape Province. The project site is located on Holding 476 of Vaalharts Settlement B and can be accessed from Kimberley via the National Route 12 (N12) and N18 highways, the R370 regional road and then via an un-tarred access road which leads to the site. Several un-tarred access roads, which are currently situated within the Ganspan-Pan Wetland Reserve, can be used to access the majority of the project area. The National Landcover map of South Africa (NLC, 2014) classifies areas within the property as 'wetland', 'bare none vegetated', 'low shrubland', 'grassland', 'water seasonal', 'woodland/open bush' and 'thicket/dense bush'. The majority of the property is permanent water and seasonal wetland areas.

Project overview

The project involves the development and upgrading of infrastructure in the Ganspan-Pan Wetland Reserve to restore the area as a safe and attractive tourism attraction. The proposed site is approximately 37ha in size (Figure 2). The project will include the following activities:

- The development, upgrading and the restoration of viable tourism and recreational facilities such as:
 - Fishing;
 - Camping facilities;
 - Bird-viewing;
 - Braai and picnic spots;
 - Hiking and biking trails;
 - Children playground;
 - Restaurant;
 - Self-catering chalets;
 - Jetties for boat launches;
 - Informal market area; and
 - Multipurpose centre.
- Upgrading and development of access roads, security gates, parking, reception and relaxation areas; and
- Upgrading, restoration and development of safe, attractive, and sustainable tourism facilities.

The current land uses encompassed within the Ganspan-Pan Wetland Reserve will be incorporated into the proposed design layout however, there is certain infrastructure which will need to be developed at the onset of the project. The critical infrastructure identified is listed as follows:

- Security and entrance gate;
- Bulk site infrastructure;
- Secure site fencing; and
- Access road upgrades.

In addition, the existing dump site, which is located along the existing access road, will need to be formalised, moved or closed.

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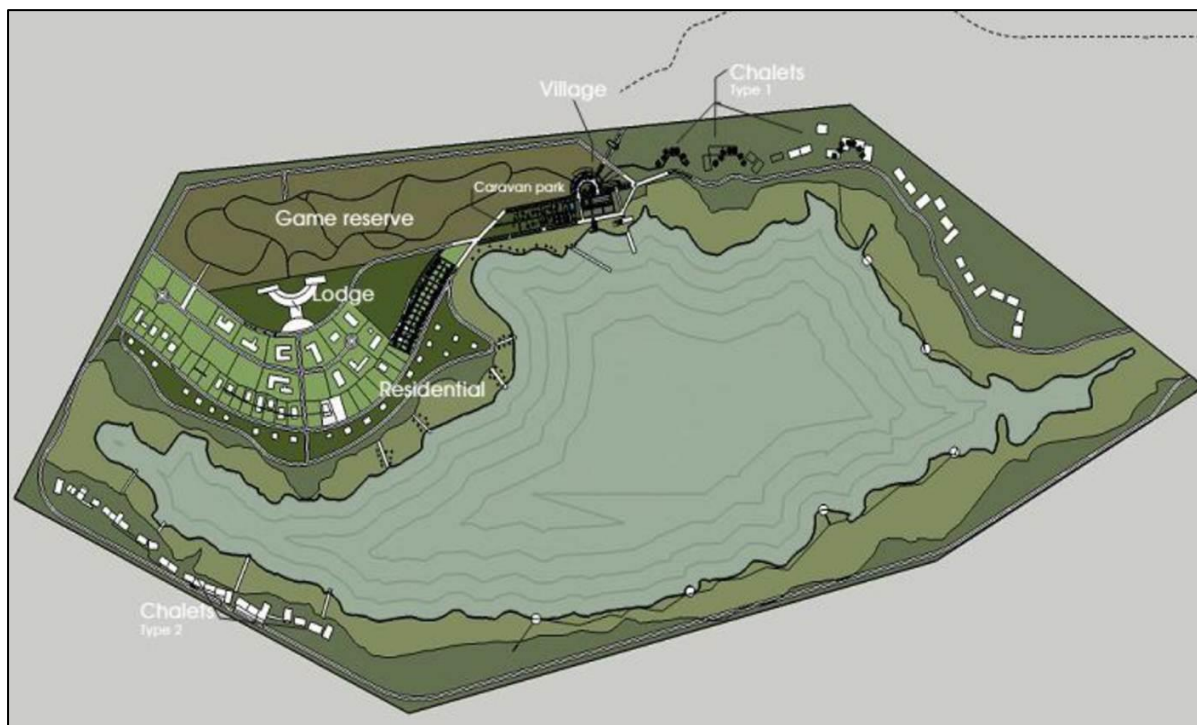


Figure 2: Proposed development layout (from FBDM, 2018).

Legislative framework

The proposed development constitutes a number of listed activities in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended) as promulgated under NEMA. As such, the proposed development requires an Environmental Authorisation (EA) prior to commencement of construction and operation. The following listed activities published in GNR.983, 984 and 985 (as amended in GNR. 327, 325 and 324) are triggered:

Notice No.	Description	Triggering activity
LISTING NOTICE 1		
GNR 327, Listing Notice 1, Activity 12	The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.	The proposed development will have restaurants, lodge and chalets within 32m of the edge of the wetland.
GNR 327, Listing Notice 1, 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 a watercourse.	Jetty developments and walkways are located at the edge of the wetland and therefore material (greater than 10 m ³) may be placed or removed into or from the wetland.

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Notice No.	Description	Triggering activity
GNR 327, Listing Notice 1, Activity 27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.	The proposed development site will require clearance of a maximum of 37ha of land. It is anticipated that more than 20ha of that land will require natural vegetation clearance.
GNR 327, Listing Notice 1, Activity 48	The expansion of— (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; where such expansion occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;	The existing jetties will be expanded into the wetland to facilitate access to boat riding activities and the old building may be expanded for office use (reception).
LISTING NOTICE 2		
GNR 325, Listing Notice 2, Activity 15	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.	The proposed development site will require clearance of a maximum of 37ha of land. It is anticipated that more than 20ha of that land will require natural vegetation clearance.
LISTING NOTICE 3		
GNR 324, Listing Notice 3, Activity 6	The development of resorts, lodges, hotels, tourism or hospitality facilities that sleeps 15 people or more. g. Northern Cape ii. Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (ii) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland;	The development will cater for more than 15 people due to the self-catering chalets, as well as the residential areas (lodge) surrounding the wetland and located within the Wetland Reserve. The proposed development is located within an area identified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) as per the Northern Cape CBA map.
GNR 324, Listing Notice 3, Activity 12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation. g. Northern Cape ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.	The proposed development site will require clearance of 37ha. It is anticipated that more than 300m ² of that land will require natural vegetation clearance. The proposed development is located within an area identified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) as per the Northern Cape CBA map.
GNR 324, Listing Notice 3, Activity 14	The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse. g. Northern Cape ii. Outside urban areas:	The tourism facilities will exceed 10 m ² and will be developed around the wetland edges. The proposed development is located within an area identified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) as per the Northern Cape CBA map.

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Notice No.	Description	Triggering activity
	(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;	
GNR 324, Listing Notice 3, Activity 17	The expansion of a resort, lodge, hotel, tourism or hospitality facilities where the development footprint will be expanded and the expanded facility can accommodate an additional 15 people or more. g. Northern Cape ii. Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;	The proposed development may use the existing footprints of the dilapidated building to expand their tourism facilities. The proposed development is located within an area identified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) as per the Northern Cape CBA map.
GNR 324, Listing Notice 3, Activity 18	The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre. g. Northern Cape ii. Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;	Existing roads may be upgraded including widening and lengthening. The proposed development is located within an area identified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) as per the Northern Cape CBA map.
GNR 324, Listing Notice 3, Activity 23	The expansion of— (ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more; where such expansion occurs— (a) within a watercourse; (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; g. Northern Cape ii. Outside urban areas: (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;	Jetties, roads and building may be expanded by more than 10 m ² . The proposed development is located within an area identified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) as per the Northern Cape CBA map.

Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting Process

The process required for the proposed development is that of an S&EIR as per Section 21 to 23 of the NEMA EIA regulations and involves a Public Participation Process as outlined in Section 41. This process serves primarily to inform the public and relevant authorities about the proposed project and to encourage their input. The Draft Scoping Report as well as the Draft EIR will be made available for review to all registered interested and affected parties (I&APs) for thirty days (30) following the release of the draft reports (Figure 3). If you are registered as an I&AP, you will be notified of all major developments and your rights throughout the process. You will also be informed of the outcome of the application for environmental authorisation once it has been decided by the

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competent authority. The competent authority for this application is the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC).

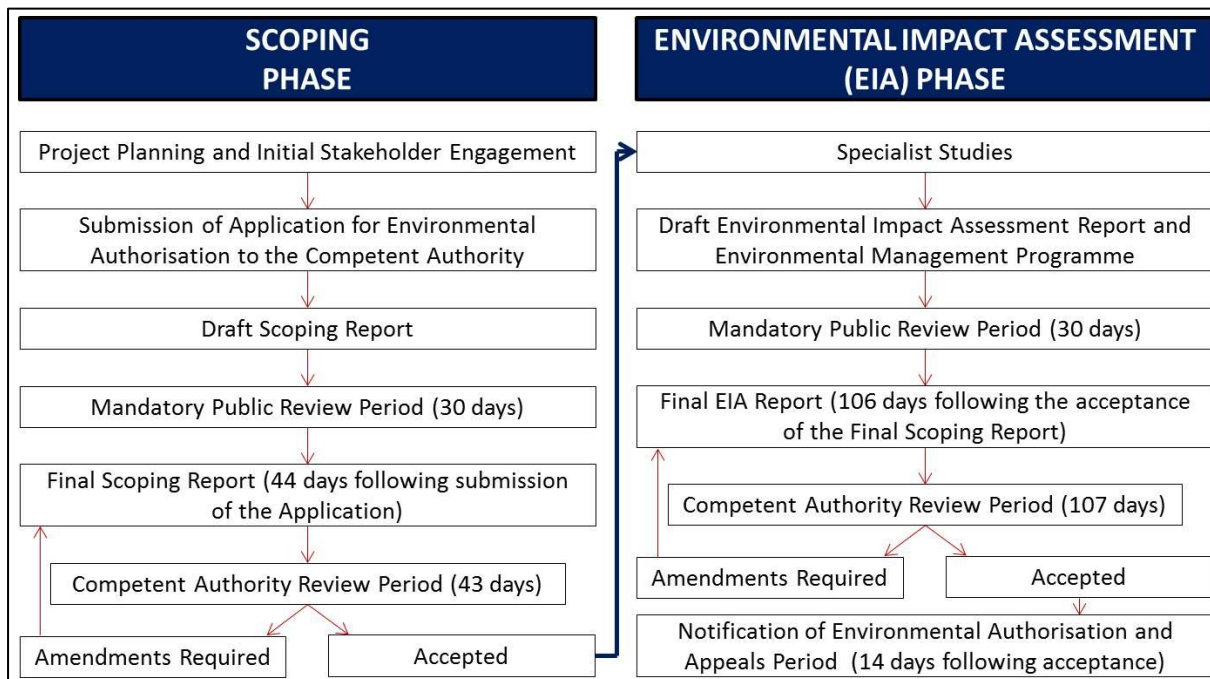


Figure 3: Generic Basic Assessment process as per the NEMA EIA regulations.

Invitation to comment

Should you wish to express your views regarding this proposed development, please send us your written comments. The names of all registered I&APs, together with the comments received will be incorporated into the Issues and Responses Report and will be submitted to the competent authority. Please submit your name, contact information (address, telephone number, email address, postal address) and written comments to the contact person below either via email, fax, telephone or post.

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