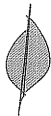


VAN ZYL



ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSULTANTS cc  
2009/073037/23

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS  
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT 25/2011**

**FOR:** THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF FACILITIES AT GOEGAP NATURE RESERVE

**LOCATION:** GOEGAP NATURE RESERVE, NEAR SPRINGBOK, NORTHERN CAPE

**DATE:** JANUARY 2012

**DEA REFERENCE:** 12/12/20/2414/1

**NEAS REFERENCE:** DEA/EIA/0000512/2011

**COMPILED BY:** VAN ZYL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

**EAP:** Irmé van Zyl  
**Mobile:** +2772 222 6194  
**Telephone:** +2754 338 0722  
**Facsimile:** +2786 624 0306  
**Email:** ibvanzyl@telkomsa.net

**Address:** P.O. Box 567  
**UPINGTON**  
**8800**  
**South Africa**

**Appointed by:** ZAMISANANI PROJECTS JV

**Contact person:** Mr S. Mjali  
**Mobile:** +2773 410 3176  
**Telephone:** +2727 712 1774  
**Facsimile:** +2727 712 2807  
**Email:** songezo@kamva.co.za

**Address:** Unit 1B  
**Anla Building**  
**18 Luckhoff Street**  
**Springbok**  
**8240**

**1. Project Applicant**

Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation

**2. Project title**

Development at Goegap Nature Reserve, Northern Cape

**3. Reference Numbers**

Department of Environmental Affairs File Reference: 12/12/20/2414/1  
NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0000512/2011

**4. Purpose of the Document**

This document is aimed at providing information to the reader with regard to the proposed development as well as the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process and the public participation process, which forms part of it. It is also aimed at equipping the reader to participate in the public participation process by requesting and receiving information, and raising concerns and issues with regard to the proposed development.

9/2/066/0001/111 already planned  
Case ID\_105

**5. Project Summary**

The Department of Environment and Nature Conservation proposes the following activities in order to upgrade the facilities at Goegap Nature Reserve:

- The demolition of the existing trails camp hut, guardhouse and group camp
- The construction of structures and associated infrastructure for:
  - Two new family camps
  - A guardhouse
  - Additions to the guardhouse, including paving and ablution facilities
  - A tourism building, adjacent to the guardhouse, including an information centre, curio shop, public ablution facilities and a parking area
  - A new group camp with ablution facilities
  - A new trails camp hut with ablution facilities
  - A conference venue
- The reticulation of the required electricity and water supplies as well as all other engineering services
- The implementation of storm water management structures

**6. Project Location**

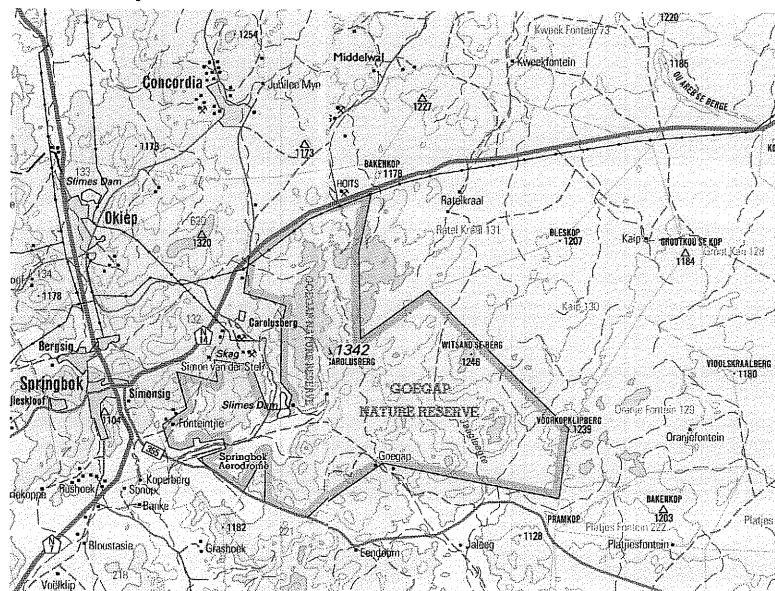


Figure 1: Location of Goegap Nature Reserve.

**7. Need for and Desirability of the Activity**

The proposed development would enable the Department of Environment and Nature Conservation to improve their service to visitors and to accommodate more overnight visitors at Goegap Nature Reserve. This would, in turn, improve the income potential of the reserve and could thereby increase the funds available for conservation.

**8. Alternative Sites**

No alternative sites have been identified, as the development is proposed within the borders of the Goegap Nature Reserve. The selection of the sites that were identified for development was informed by a study conducted by Van Riet and Louw Landscape Architects. These areas were determined to be the most suitable development areas on the reserve, as they were either disturbed or of lesser conservation value than the remainder of the reserve.

An application for exemption from the required assessment of alternative sites has been lodged with the Department of Environmental Affairs.

#### **9. Relevant Legislation and Applications to be Submitted**

Government Notices R 543, R 544 and R 546 GG No. 33306 dated 18 June 2010 in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (as amended), are applicable. As the thresholds defined in Regulations 544 and 546 will be exceeded by the proposed development, an application for environmental authorisation has been submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs. This application will be informed by a basic assessment report, which will be submitted shortly.

The listed activities that will probably be relevant to the proposed development include the following, but are not limited thereto:

R. 544, Activities 11(x) and (xi) with regard to the possible construction of buildings and/or infrastructure larger than 50 m<sup>2</sup> within 32 m from a watercourse.

R. 544, Activity 18(i) with regard to the possible removal of material from or depositing of material into a watercourse.

R. 544, Activities 23(ii) and 24 with regard to the transformation and rezoning of land to residential, business, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use.

R. 544, Activity 26 with regard to processes and activities listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, Act 10 of 2004.

R 546, Activity 5(a), (c), (d)(i)(aa) and (cc); Activity 6(a)(ii); and Activity 7(a)(ii) with regard to the construction of tourism facilities in a protected area.

R. 546, Activity 12(a) and (b); 13(a), and (c)(ii); and Activity 14(a)(i) with regard to the removal of vegetation within a protected area.

R. 546, Activity 16(iii)(a)(ii) and (iv)(a)(ii) with regard to the possible construction of structures and/or infrastructure within 32 m from a watercourse in a protected area.

R. 546, Activity 18(a)(ii), with regard to the expansion of tourism facilities in a protected area.

R. 546, Activity 19(a)(ii), with regard to the widening or lengthening of a road in a protected area.

R. 546, Activity 24(c)(a)(ii) and (d)(a)(ii), with regard to the possible expansion of buildings and/or infrastructure within 32 m from a watercourse in a protected area.

#### **10. Specialist Studies**

As part of the EIA process, potential environmental impacts of the proposed development will be identified and studied by the EAP, in collaboration with an ecologist and an archaeologist.

#### **11. Important Issues with regard to the Proposed Development**

The development is proposed within the Goegap Nature Reserve, which is a protected area in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, Act 57 of 2003. The developer therefore has to take special care to minimise disturbance of the environment.

The runway near the entrance to the nature reserve will be taken into consideration throughout the planning and construction phases of the proposed development and the South African Civil Aviation Authority, as well as the landowner, namely Nama-Khoi Municipality, will be kept informed throughout the EIA process.

#### **12. The Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

The environmental impact assessment process is conducted by an independent EAP in order to identify and manage the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. It ensures that environmental consideration forms part of the planning of the development and aids the Department of Environmental Affairs in deciding whether a development should be authorised or not.

The basic assessment report will contain information regarding the proposed development as well as the expected impacts of the development, as identified by the EAP and the various specialists. Alternatives with regard to the proposed development will be investigated in order to determine the most acceptable development options. An environmental management programme will be submitted as part of the report. This document will stipulate measures that should be

implemented during the planning, construction, operational and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the development in order to ensure that positive environmental impacts are enhanced and negative impacts mitigated.

#### **13. The Public Participation Process**

The public participation process forms an important part of the EIA process, as it ensures that the concerns of all interested and affected parties (I&APs) are taken into consideration.

At the beginning of the EIA, I&APs are identified and informed about the proposed development and the EIA process. They are also invited to raise their concerns and identify issues with regard to the proposed development. Public invitations for involvement are issued by means of media advertisements and public notices in order to ensure that all potential I&APs are identified. These parties are registered on a database and their comments and concerns recorded for inclusion in the basic assessment report. They are also informed when the draft report is available for perusal and are invited to comment on this report. Each invitation to comment is subject to a deadline by which the EAP will assume that all comments have been received. These deadlines must be adhered to in order for the process to flow smoothly.

All I&APs are hereby invited to get involved in the EIA process by responding to media advertisements and public notices, completing and submitting the response form supplied with this document, attending public meetings if any are held, and reading and commenting on the draft report. Any enquiries, comments or requests for further information can be directed to the EAP telephonically or in writing (contact details on p. 1)