

**PROPOSED MARA TRAILS CAMP, ON JAGTERSUS 418 KQ, IN THE
MARAKELE PARK PTY (LTD) SECTION OF THE MARAKELE NATIONAL PARK**

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1095

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

December 2013

In terms of the EIA Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998), Marakele Park (Pty) Ltd requires authorization from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), for the undertaking of the proposed development of a 12 bed tented trails camp on the farm Jagtersrus 418KQ, in the Marakele Park Pty (Ltd) section of the Marakele National Park.

In order to obtain authorization, a Basic Assessment Process must be undertaken together with independent environmental studies, in accordance with the EIA Regulations. This project has been registered with the DEA under the application reference number **14/12/16/3/3/1/1095**.

By virtue of location, you have been identified as a potential Interested and / or Affected Party to this process, and are hereby invited to participate.

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT TELLS YOU

This Background Information Document (BID), provides you, as a potential Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), with background information on the proposed project, as well as information regarding the Basic Assessment Process (BA) and specialist studies that are currently underway to assess the potential

impacts (i.e. positive and negative; as well as direct, indirect, and cumulative) of the proposed project;

It further indicates how you can become involved in the project, receive information and raise issues that may concern and/or interest you. The sharing of information forms an important component of the Public Participation Process and not only provides you with the opportunity to become actively involved, but also to provide information that may be of value for the proposed development.

PROPERTY & PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The affected property, the farm Jagtersrus 418KQ, is situated within the Marakele Park Pty (Ltd) section of the Marakele National Park, approximately 30km north-east of the town of Thabazimbi in the Limpopo Province.

The project entails the development of a discreet trails camp comprising 5 guest tents on elevated wooden decks, 2 staff tents, a communal area, kitchen and storeroom, as well as an outdoor dining enclosure (boma).

A proposed short (<100m) unobtrusive 2-spoor track will provide vehicular access off a nearby gravel track. The camp will be powered by a combination of solar power and LP gas. Water will be piped to the facility from an existing borehole in the proximity of the site and stored in a flat 5000 liter tank from where it will gravity feed to the units.

PROJECT MOTIVATION

The motivation for the project is grounded in the need to increase and diversify the tourism product of the Marakele Park Pty (Ltd). In terms of the contractual agreement between SANParks and Marakele Park Pty Ltd, the latter are entitled to develop 100 tourist beds in the 20 000ha Park. To date, the 30 bed Marataba Lodge has been developed, an upmarket 5 star lodge catering almost exclusively for photo-safari guide drives.

In response to an identified need for more rustic, wilderness accommodation, the proponent intends developing the trails camp to meet this requirement, and to facilitate the inclusion of guided game walks between the lodge and the trails camp, as well as using the trails camp as a point of departure and arrival for walking trails.

THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Nuleaf Planning and Environmental Pty Ltd was appointed to undertake the Basic Assessment (BA) Process for the proposed activities. The BA works as follows

- When an applicant proposes to undertake a listed activity (i.e. those listed in Government Notice No 544, 545 and 546 of 18 June 2010), an application must be made for environmental authorization. Depending on the scale and nature of the activity, either a Basic Assessment or a Full Scoping and EIA Procedure must be followed.
- The activity, as proposed, triggers the following activities and as such requires that a Basic Assessment Process be undertaken.

Number and date of the relevant notice:	Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant notice) :	Description of each listed activity as per the detailed project description
GN R. 546	Item 5 (a)	Construction of a trails camp that sleeps 10 guests and 2 staff, within the Marakele Park Pty (Ltd) section of the Marakele National Park (a Protected Area identified in terms of NEMPAA).

- An independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) must undertake the process on behalf of the applicant to ensure objectivity.
- The first step is to submit an application to the competent authority (in this case the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)).
- Upon acknowledgement of the application, the EAP must undertake a public participation process, and afford any and all persons interested and /or affected by the proposed development to register and participate in the process. A 30 day registration period is allowed for, as well as opportunity to ask questions, submit concerns etc.
- The EAP must then produce a Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR), which describes both the project and the environment, assesses the anticipated impact of

the project on the environment, and makes recommendations in terms of mitigation and management.

- A specialist Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken on the proposed development site.
- Once complete, this Draft Basic Assessment Report is circulated to all registered interested and affected parties who would like to deliver comment. A 40 day comment period is allowed for.
- Once all comments from registered interested and affected parties have been addressed, the EAP will submit the Final Basic Assessment Report to the competent authority for consideration.
- The competent authority is then required to make a decision on the application (i.e. either positive or negative). This is called a Record of Decision (RoD).
- Once this decision has been made, the EAP must communicate the outcome to all Interested and Affected Parties who registered during the public participation process.
- I&AP's have the right to appeal against the decision should they feel the need to do so, in which case the competent authority will review and reconsider the application.

ROLE OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

You have been identified as a potential Stakeholder or Interested and Affected Party, and are hereby invited to participate in this EIA Process. If you would like to be involved in this process, comment on draft reports, provide input, raise concerns, or simply remain informed of the project process, please register as a Stakeholder via a return email, fax or post.

Registration as a Stakeholder must reach the Environmental Assessment Practitioner listed below by no later than Monday 27th January 2014

Attention: Peter Velcich

Nuleaf Planning and Environmental Pty (Ltd)

8a Trevor Street

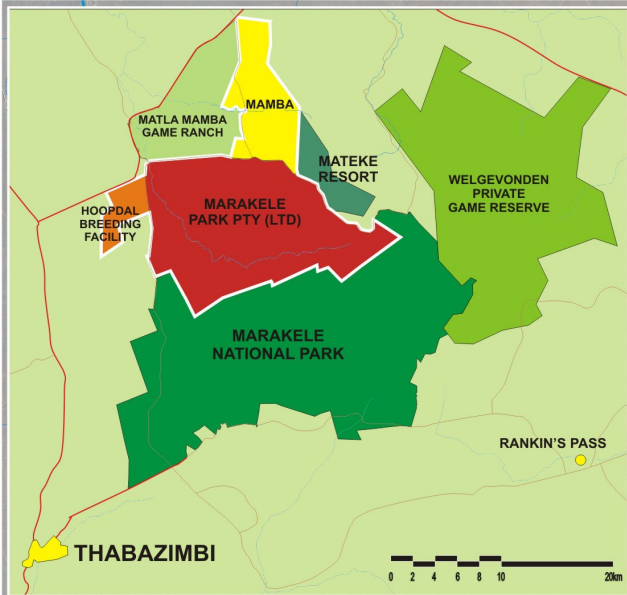
Murrayfield

Pretoria 0184

Tel: 082 4420220

Fax: 086 571 6292

Email: peter@nuleafsa.co.za



LEGEND

- MARAKELE PARK PTY (LTD) BOUNDARY
- R510 MAIN ROAD
- SECONDARY GRAVEL ROADS
- RAILWAY LINE
- PERENNIAL RIVERS
- NON-PERENNIAL RIVERS
- 20m CONTOURS
- DAMS

- BRIDGES
- DAM WALLS
- MANAGEMENT GATES
- TOURIST GATES
- MANAGEMENT ROADS
- GAME DRIVE TRACKS
- HOOPDAL TRACKS
- TRAILS (CONCEPTUAL)

- HOOPDAL POLICE STATION
- PLACE OF WORSHIP
- EXISTING LODGES AND CAMPS
- LODGE
- BUSH OR FLY CAMP

PROPOSED TRAILS CAMP SITE IN TERMS OF THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

Coordinates of corner	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
NW	24° 20' 3.90"S	27° 39' 35.57"E
NE	24° 20' 3.90"S	27° 39' 40.90"E
SE	24° 20' 9.29"S	27° 39' 40.90"E
SW	24° 20' 9.29"S	27° 39' 35.57"E

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS: MARA TRAILS CAMP 2013



MARAKELE PARK PTY (LTD)