



## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**Organisation:** South Africa Heritage Resource Agency

**Date:** 24 July 2013

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### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

#### **MESSAGE: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF ACCOMODATION FACILITIES AT MANYANE GAME LODGE**

Leseekha Consulting has been appointed by REA a AGA infrastructure on behalf on the North West Parks & Tourism Board (NWP&TB) to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the upgrading of accommodation facilities at Manyane Game lodge within Mafikeng Game Reserve. You have been identified as the as the stakeholder/interested and Identified Parties on the project.

The purpose of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) is not merely to assess the impact of a development on the environment. EIA also facilitates improved decision making by the competent authority, tasked with either granting or refusing an environmental authorisation for a development to proceed. The EIA Regulations promulgated under section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA),<sup>1</sup> sets out the minimum requirements regarding public participation by interested and affected parties (I&APs).

This background information document aims to invite interested and affected parties (I&AP's) and all the stakeholders to participate in the process and to obtain comments their inputs for environmental authorization. Your participation will assist in identifying environmental consequences of the proposed project and ensure that they are evaluated in the EIA process. Should you want to participate, you will receive further EIA reports and notification of the decision from the relevant authority

### Project Description

The proposed upgrading of Manyane Game Reserve will be divided into two phases **Phase I** will entail: Refurbishment of existing 10 chalets and of existing buildings, demolishing the existing restaurant and construction of a new 250 sitter restaurant, upgrading of existing gravel roads and storm water, as well as the parking lot; upgrading and refurbishment of water supply reticulation system and refurbishment of sewer reticulation system ;( the area has been reticulated however some of the pipes that are blocked will be replaced). **Phase II** will entail the construction of a new 500 sitter conference facility; Construction of 10 new chalets and landscaping around the lodge.

### Project Location:

Manyane game lodge is within Mafikeng Game Reserve on Portion 3 of the Farm No. 89 Bellevue JO, which is located 10km east of Mafikeng town on the R49 road to Zeerust, in the North West Province.

### Importance of your participation:

Everyone has the right to be involved in decisions that may affect their livelihood. Participation by Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) is in everyone's best interest because:

- ❖ It provides opportunities for I&AP's and the authorities to obtain clear, accurate and understandable information about the expected environmental impacts of the proposed project.
- ❖ it assist to incorporate views and concerns of I&AP's into the design phase and augment the information requirements to attain a record of decision (RoD) from Department of Environmental Affairs that will facilitate legislative compliance and project inception.
- ❖ It provides members of the public with the opportunity to voice their concerns and to raise questions regarding the project.
- ❖ It provides affected parties with the opportunity to suggest ways for reducing or mitigating any negative impacts of the project, and for enhancing its benefits.
- ❖ It will enable the project proponent to consider the needs, preferences and values of affected parties in their decisions.
- ❖ It provides opportunities for the clearing up of misunderstandings about technical issues, resolving disputes and reconciling conflicting interests.
- ❖ It is vital for ensuring transparency and accountability in decision-making.
- ❖ It contributes towards maintaining a healthy, vibrant democracy.

Trust you find this in order;

Regards;

Lesego Senna