



SAHRIS PERMIT APPLICATION
MAPUNGUBWE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE, NATIONAL & WORLD HERITAGE
SITE
MAPUNGUBWE NATIONAL PARK

Management Authority	South African National Parks (SANParks)
Application Name:	Upgrade & Maintenance of Mapungubwe Hill Western Staircase
Application by:	Aletta Maria (Letsie) Coetzee (<i>B.Tech Nature Conservation</i>) P.O. Box 383 MUSINA 0900 e-mail: letsie.coetzee@sanparks.org cell: 078 893 3598
On behalf of:	South African National Parks
Application Date:	10 November 2020

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The project, for which the permit application is made, forms part of Mapungubwe National Park's infrastructure maintenance plan; in conjunction with projects as part of the Vele Mine Biodiversity Offset Agreement (BOA).

The park attracts visitors throughout the year and interpretation and visits to Mapungubwe Hill forms an integrated part of these visitors' experience. Wooden structures and platforms are commonly prone to damage due to normal wear-and-tear as well as environmental conditions such as sun, humidity, wind and heavy rains that contribute towards weakening these structures. The Mapungubwe Hill's Western staircase, also constructed of wood, is not an exception and requires replacement of rundown materials. This maintenance project further aims to improve visitor accessibility and ultimately visitor experience, as well as protecting the Outstanding Universal Values (OUV's) of the site.

The work to be undertaken is upgrading (by the use of more durable wood) and maintenance of the complete Western staircase and associated structures, which provides access to Mapungubwe Hill for interpretation purposes.

See annexure A for the location of the site with Annexure B indicating structures before upgrades.

SANParks Technical Services will ensure adherence to technical specifications, with Louw de Bruin (EPWP Project Co-ordinator) the onsite contact. Mr de Bruin will also conduct the planning and implementation of the project.

A.M. (Letsie) Coetzee will furthermore be available during construction and will act as Environmental Control Officer (ECO), including general cultural heritage aspects. SANParks' Cultural Heritage Department and Archaeologist are furthermore aware of the project and will provide more in-depth cultural heritage expertise. Therefore, a group experienced in various facets of operational management will be providing support to the contractor.

The anticipated commencement of work will be mid-January 2021.

SPECIFICATIONS

Design Detail:

- No changes should be made to layout or visual aspects of any of the current structures to be upgraded.
- Wood, cement and stone will be used on all surfaces to be maintained, and no variation from the current materials used in the different sections.
- Wood treatment must be completed off site and only final coating will be done on site.

Technical Specifications:

- Oven dried (clear/semi-clear) **saligna** planks; 95mm x 21mm
- Must have rounded edges on top and two stress grooves on bottom.
- Must be solid wood with no joints.
- Treat wood all around with two layers of **Ristix Timbercare Exterior Penetrating Oil**.
- Treat wood with a third layer of **Ristix Timbercare Exterior Penetrating Oil** after screwed on, on top and sides.
- Sub-structure repairs should be done with **cca treated** ex 38 x 114 / 38 x 152 adult wood without any joints (solid wood)
- Planks should be screwed to sub-structure with wood deck 4.2 x 60mm **stainless steel screws**.
- Broken concrete stairs should be fixed with cement and natural stone without any deviations from the current structure.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS TO THE CONTRACT

The following Particular Specifications will form part of the Scope of Work:

- Code of Conduct for working in SANParks.
- Occupational Health and Safety Specifications.
- SANParks Technical Department will do quality control.
- AM (Letsie) Coetzee will act as Environmental Control Officer (ECO) during construction.
- SANParks Cultural Heritage Department and Archaeologist will be involved during various phases of construction.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

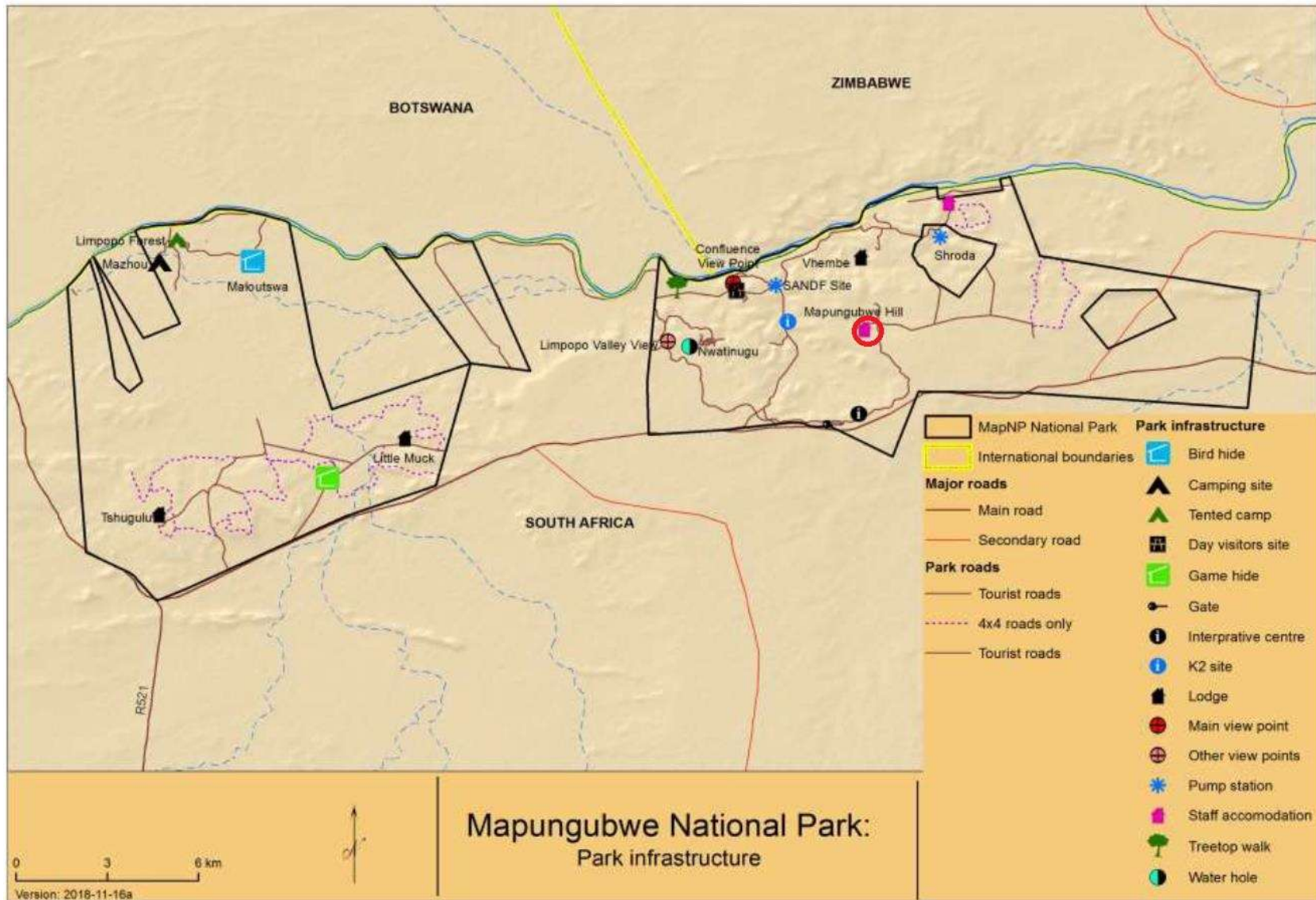
General maintenance is an ongoing need on structures laid bare to environmental impacts. The use of more durable wood will enhance the life expectancy of the staircase, requiring less maintenance in the medium to long-term.

Mapungubwe Hill and its associated structures forms an integrated part of the Mapungubwe National Park's tourism product and OUV's of the wider Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape National & World Heritage Site, allowing tourist access to one of the most significant Cultural Heritage Sites in the MCLWHS and park.

The associated structures that allows access have deteriorated to such an extent that SANParks should replace old materials to comply with OHS standards and ensure the safety of visitors and staff using the staircase. SAHRA inspection reports also indicate the need of maintenance to these structures.

Annexure A

Mapungubwe National Park, Park map with Mapungubwe Hill indicated



Annexure B

Views of dilapidated structures before upgrade

