

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RADISSON BLU SAFARI RESORT

Draft Minutes

FOCUS GROUP MEETING WITH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Date: 12/03/2011
Time: 09h00
Venue: Ka Mhlutshwa Village



In Attendance:

Project Team	Organisation
Environmental Consultants:	
Karen Botes	Interdesign Landscape Architects (ILA) - Managing Director
Claudia Coetzee	ILA – Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Alicia de Swardt	ILA – Administrative Assistant
Applicant:	
Peter Wright	Malalane Safari Resort Pty Ltd
Andrew McLachlan	The Rezidor Hotel Group
Environmental Control Officer / Community Liaison Officer	
Jaco Buys	Malalane Safari Resort Pty Ltd
SANPARKS:	
Abe Sibiya	SANPARKS- Managing Executive Kruger National Park
Helen Mmethi	SANPARKS – Head People and Conservation
Solly Themba	SANPARKS- Facilitator
Audrey Kekana	SANPARKS – Concessions Project Manager
Giju Varghese	SANPARKS – Head Business Development
National Empowerment Fund:	
Zwelibanzi Sapula	National Empowerment Fund
Other	Organisation
Please see attached attendance list	

Welcome and Introduction

Mrs. Karen Botes (KB) from Interdesign Landscape Architects (ILA) Pty Ltd, the Environmental Assessment Practitioners, introduced herself and welcomed everyone present. The project team introduced themselves to the community. KB informed all attendees that the meeting is a focus group meeting pertaining to preliminary proposals from the Developer as part of its social responsibility initiatives. It was confirmed that it was not a Public Open Day as had been wrongfully printed in the media. Attendees were therefore requested not to deviate for the agenda.

The purpose of the meeting was:

- To inform the local community;
- To provide an overview of the EIA process;
- To present preliminary proposals for community involvement
- Planned dividends; and
- To establish a contact forum

The meeting was facilitated through the translator Mr. Solly Themba of SANPARKS.

Community representatives were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. The community was represented by four (4) tribal communities, the small business sector, Nkomazi Forum, Local Tourism Forum, TSB, the Old Age Community and the Malelane Business Chamber.

KB proceeded to explain each slide of the presentation *(available on request)*

Claudia Coetzee (CC) provided a brief overview of the EIA process. The next phase will be the Draft EIA Report & Environmental Management Programme (EMP) which will be made available for comment to registered Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP's).

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Helen Mmethi (SANPARKS: Head of People and Conservation) gave an overview on the community forum and which communities will be represented. The seventeen (17) communities which are directly impacted by the Kruger National Park (KNP) will have representation on the forum. This will include tribal as well as municipal representation. Discussion will take place on a regular basis. The Nkomazi Community Forum meets bi-monthly and is a link between the KNP and the community. The 17 communities will get preference in economic empowerment opportunities. However where needs and skills can not be met within the affected communities, alternative communities will be approached.

CONCEPT BUSINESS PLAN

Jaco Buys (Malelane Safari Resort- Community Liaison Officer) gave an overview on the Concept Business Plan which is aimed at community upliftment. The plan is proposed in three (3) phases.

1. The first phase will commence six (6) months prior to construction of the development. A Training School will be opened outside the KNP for the local community. This school will be funded by all the development partners and possibly SANPARKS and Government. The training school will focus on training of game rangers. Training includes a legal qualification as game ranger to enable individuals to work in KNP; obtaining a driver's license; obtaining a First Aid level 1 and FGASA registration. Rangers will be trained to conduct game drives as well as to function as field guides on foot. The aim is to build a reputation for training quality game rangers not only for this development but also for KNP and surrounding lodges and to enable people from the community to acquire permanent jobs.
2. Second phase will be a training school for housekeeping and catering skills.
3. The third phase will be to establish a fleet of vehicles from the Park and Ride to the resort, for game viewing etc. An operational manager, hopefully a qualified person from the community will be needed to service and maintain this fleet as well as train people in this field. These goals can be achieved through hard work and commitment.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES KNP

Mr. Abe Sibiya (Managing Executive KNP) was introduced and formally greeted attendees. He indicated that the community previously was not given the opportunity to provide their inputs about development on their perimeter but are offered opportunity now to provide input. He requested attendees to contribute the best they can and encourage more members to attend future meetings.

Mr. Peter Wright confirmed that the social commitments which form part of their contract will ensure that local businesses/companies which are BEE compliant will benefit from the procurement of services. It was emphasized by Peter Wright that they are looking for partnership with the community and that the community will own 20% of the shares. Employment and selection of service providers will be done in close conjunction with Ms Mmethi and KNP to ensure the right people based on skills, locally owned and BEE compliance are selected.

DISCUSSION SESSION

- During the discussion members of the community clarified why the affected area consists of 8 tribal authorities.

- Mr. Maseko Africa representing the Nkomasi Forum explained the establishment of the forum and that it was agreed upon that tribal leaders and the municipality would be represented on the forum. This forum will be the representatives for the community for this project and he reiterated the forum's commitment to the community.

The following responses were provided on specific questions which were asked during the discussion session.

- Mr Sibiya confirmed that the KNP Planning is not yet integrated with the Municipality Planning in terms of the IDP. However the KNP is working towards this objective;
- It was confirmed by Mr Sibiya that the quota at the Malelane Gate would not change as the Park & Ride is not part of the gate. However development of the Park & Ride system throughout the Park will play a dominant role in the future for reducing traffic in the Park. The KNP's objective is to reduce vehicles through the KNP and hope to do so by marketing educational drives through the Park & Ride facility.
- Mr. Sibiya confirmed that matters pertaining to land claims were within the mandate of the Department of Land Affairs.

Way Forward and Closure

KB discussed the way forward.

KB further explained that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be available for comment by registered I&AP's in April 2011.

KB thanked everyone for attending the meeting.