



01 February 2024

Our Ref: KNY650/06

DFFE Ref: 2023-01-0024 (Pre-Application)

Dear Potential Stakeholder / Interested & Affected Party

VIA: Email, Post / Hand Delivery

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED 'DIEPWALLE FOREST TENTED CAMP' ON REMAINDER FARM 218 DIEPWALL, GARDEN ROUTE NATIONAL PARK, KNYSNA

Cape EAPrac has been appointed by the Applicant, **South African Experiences Trading (Pty) Ltd.**, as independent environmental consultants to facilitate the environmental investigation and formal Basic Assessment process, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998, as amended), for the proposed seasonal tented camp within the Diepwalle Forest of the Garden Route National Park, near Knysna.

The proposed approx. 1.5ha camp site is to be developed in an **existing clearing** and immediate forest fringe, previously created / used as a sawmill & timber industry site, and later as a film set and elephant boma during the filming of two movies based on the well-known forest novels by South African author Dalene Matthee, namely "Fiela se Kind" (1988) and "Toorbos" (1993). An existing pond / water feature adjacent to the site was previously created for the elephants. This site is located within the Farm Remainder 218 Deepwall, a large (4129.85 ha) property which forms part of the Garden Route National Park.

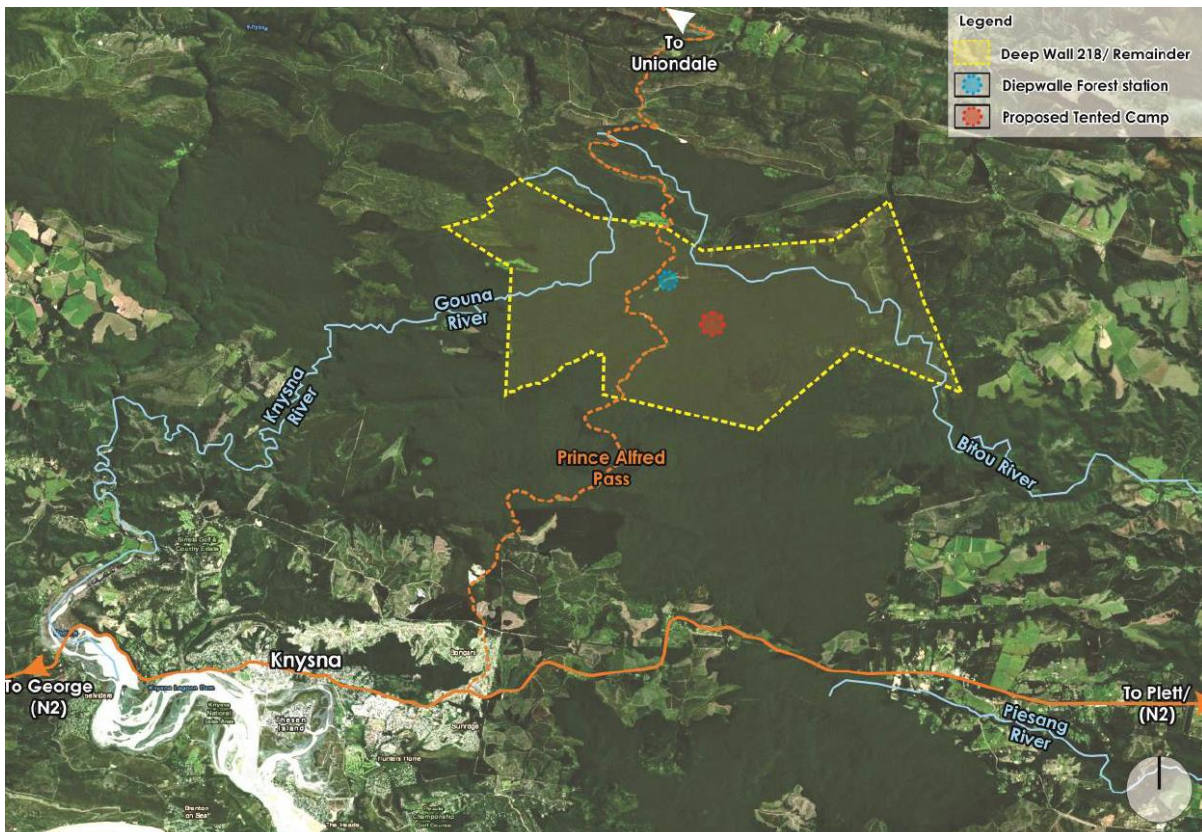


Figure 1: Study area within broader landscape, indicating location of RE/218 & site (Google Earth 2022, as edited by De Kock, 2023).

The site is accessed via a 1.6km **existing private forest track** (historic Ysterhoutrug Road) off the R339 gravel Provincial Road, which provides access to the existing Diepwalle Forest Station / Offices managed by South African National Parks (SANParks) and Uniondale beyond.

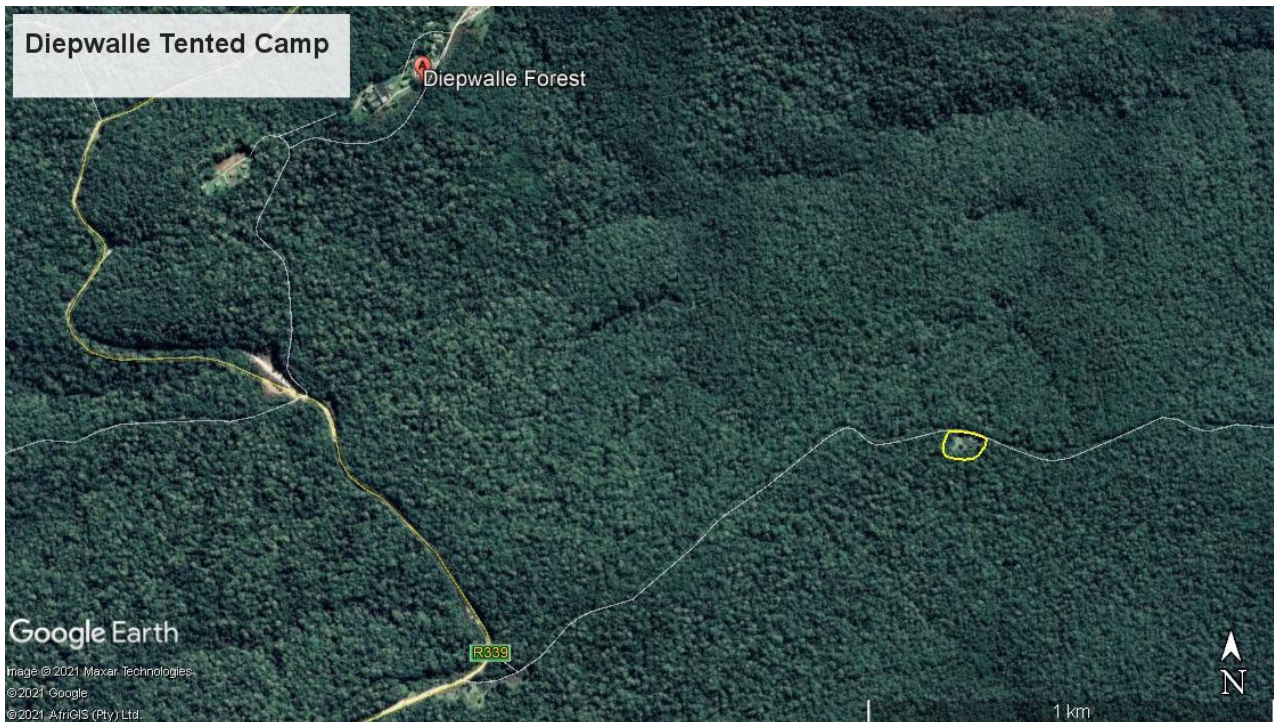


Figure 2: Location of site camp (yellow circle) in relation to access roads & Diepwalle Forest Station (Google Earth, 2022).

The proposed tented camp is to be a temporal, luxury retreat, to be operated during the summer months (Nov.- April.). During the winter months all moveable infrastructure will be removed from site. The camp is to consist of:

Fixed infrastructure restricted to raised wooden decks:

- 15 guest-tent platforms in gaps between trees, to support dome tents;
- Communal / dining deck partially under stretch tent, with communal toilet, pool & hot-tubs;
- Yoga deck;
- Raised wooden boardwalks linking decks / raised platforms;
- Platforms for 2 x 10 000lt rainwater tanks (2.5m x 2.5m each); and

Temporary / mobile infrastructure to be placed on ground:

- 3 x canvas staff tents, and 2 x staff toilets (male & female);
- 3 x kitchen & storage tents;
- 2 x 'zen' / quiet gaps & 1 x forest library;
- Solar generator on mobile trailer.

Services will be as follows:

- Power: Heating of water & pre-prepared food on gas, while lights by solar generator (panels, inverter & batteries on movable trailer).
- Water: Rainwater storage tanks to be filled by water tanker and/or gravity pipeline from Diepwalle Forest Station / Camp reservoirs through Forest. To be assisted by pressure pump.
- Sewerage: Chemical toilets (sealed units) to be emptied by service provider to Knysna WWTW.
- Greywater: Water from sinks, basins, pool & hot-tubs to be disposed of via soak-aways – existing slip-paths through the Forest. Sink & basins to be fitted with fat screens to remove all fat, grease & oils. Only biodegradable soaps / detergents permitted.

The existing Diepwalle Forest Station will serve as a basecamp for camp operations – guests will leave their vehicles in the existing parking area & will be shuttled to & from the tented camp site.

All bulk storage, food preparation & waste disposal will take place in partnership with the Diepwalle Community Kitchen / Tea Garden.

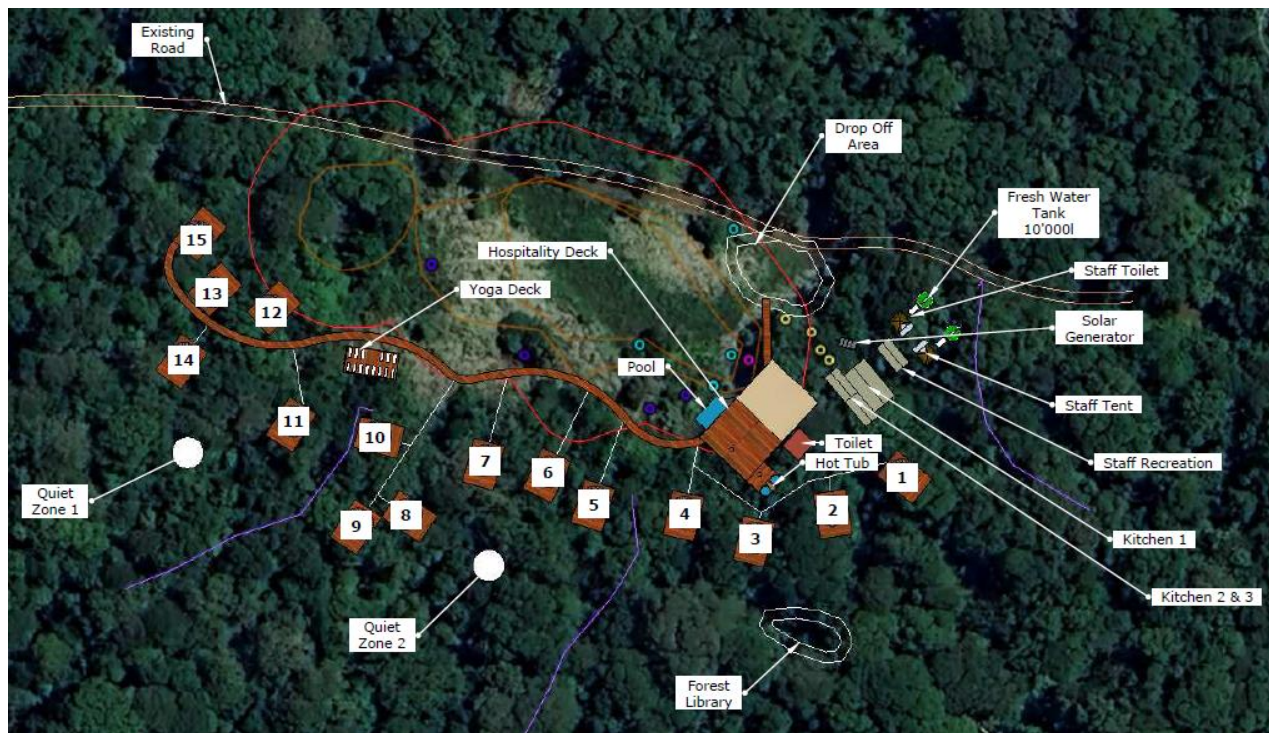


Figure 3: Conceptual camp layout indicating proposed infrastructure.

Applicable NEMA Listed Activities: Listing Notice 1: 12 & 19; Listing Notice 3: 6, 12 & 14.

No land-use application is applicable as development is considered to be a tourism-based land use associated with the National Park.

Deviations/Exemptions: None applied for.

Potential I&APs and mandated Authorities/Organs of State are invited to **review and submit comment** on the Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR), which will be available for a **30-day commenting period**, extending from **Tuesday, 06 February to Wednesday 06 March 2024**. The reports can be accessed digitally via www.cape-eaprac.co.za / Active Projects or SANParks website: www.sanparks.org/notifications?t=eia&p=* Hard-copies will be made available at the SANParks Diepwalle Forest Station and Thesens Island offices. Alternative platforms / access to reports can be arranged on request.

In order to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the BA process, individuals are requested to respond to this notice by submitting their complete contact details and comments to *Cape EAPrac* in writing (to address below) on or before **06 March 2024**. Your motivation for, or interest in the outcome of the application, must be stipulated in your registration / submission. You are required to indicate your preferred method of communication as part of your registration/submission. Correspondence throughout the remainder of the environmental process will only be distributed to registered I&APs.

Cape EAPrac – Attention: Louise-Mari van Zyl or Siân Holder

Contact: sian@cape-eaprac.co.za / louise@cape-eaprac.co.za, P.O. Box 2070 George 6530,
Telephone: 044 874 0365

Input from stakeholders is very important to inform the process, as well as for decision-making and we kindly do request that those with an interest or mandate, please do take the time to review the report and provide us with your comment so that we can consider and respond thereto as part of

the process. All submissions will be incorporated into the Final Basic Assessment that will be presented to the Competent Authority for decision-making.

Should you have any queries about the proposal or process you are most welcome to contact the undersigned directly.

Kind regards,



Siân Holder

Environmental Consultant

For Cape *EAPrac*

Take Note: Ito the POPIA legislation when registering as an I&AP a person consents to the lawful processing of personal information for the intended purposes, as described by the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013). By registering/submitting comment a person agrees that his/her/their contact details will, where required by a public body, be reflected in regulated reports that must be compiled and submitted to the general public, registered stakeholders, organs of state as well as the competent authority for consideration and decision-making.