



# forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA ·0001· Environment House ·473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/2927

**Enquiries:** Ms Mmamohale Kabasa

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9420 **E-mail:** MKabasa@dfffe.gov.za

Mrs Lysta Stander  
South African Experiences Trading (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 1081  
**SOMERSET WEST**  
2158

**Telephone Number:** (021) 202 1230  
**Email Address:** lysta@experiences.co.za

## PER E-MAIL

Dear Mrs Stander

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE PROPOSED DIEPWALLE FOREST TENTED CAMP WITHIN THE GARDEN ROUTE NATIONAL PARK NEAR KNYSNA WITHIN THE KNYSNA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, of the decision, as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within twenty (20) days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

**Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:**

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: [appeals@dffe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dffe.gov.za)

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko  
Arcadia  
Pretoria  
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at [https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appeals@dffe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dffe.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



**Dr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

Date: 07/08/2024

cc:	Ms Louise-Mari van Zyl	Cape EAPrac	Email: <a href="mailto:louise@cape-eaprac.co.za">louise@cape-eaprac.co.za</a>
	Mr Danie Swanepoel	Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning: Region 3: Eden & Central Karoo	Email: <a href="mailto:Danie.Swanepoel@westerncape.gov.za">Danie.Swanepoel@westerncape.gov.za</a>
	Ms Pam Booth	Knysna Local Municipality	Email: <a href="mailto:pbooth@knysna.gov.za">pbooth@knysna.gov.za</a>

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## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIEPWALLE FOREST TENTED CAMP WITHIN THE GARDEN ROUTE NATIONAL PARK NEAR KNYSNA WITHIN THE KNYSNA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**Garden Route District Municipality**

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2927</i>
<b>Last amended:</b>	<i>First issue</i>
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	<i>South African Experiences Trading (Pty) Ltd</i>
<b>Location of activity:</b>	<i>Remainder of the Farm 218 Deep Walle; Knysna Local Municipality, Garden Route District Municipality, Western Cape Province.</i>

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

## Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

## Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

### **SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCES TRADING (PTY) LTD**

with the following contact details –

Mrs Lysta Stander  
South African Experiences Trading (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 1081  
**SOMERSET WEST**  
2158

**Telephone Number:** (021) 202 1230

**Email Address:** [lysta@experiences.co.za](mailto:lysta@experiences.co.za)

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice 1 and Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>“The development of –</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more,</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.”</i></p>	<p>The tented camp with a combined physical footprint of approx. 1508m<sup>2</sup> to be developed within 32m of a small, man-made and unmapped pond and saddle seep wetland confirmed via an aquatic study:</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Item 19:</u></p> <p><i>“The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal, or moving of soil, sand, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.”</i></p>	<p>The tented camp is to be developed within 32m of a small, man-made and unmapped pond and saddle seep wetland confirmed via an aquatic study.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Item 6:</u></p> <p><i>“The development of resorts, lodges, hotels, tourism or hospitality facilities that sleeps 15 people or more.</i></p> <p><b>i. Western Cape</b></p> <p><i>i. Inside a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA;”</i></p>	<p>Seasonal camp will accommodate more than 15 people when in operation in the summer months.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>“The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan</i></p> <p><i>i. Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>iv. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned</i></p>	<p>Clearance of vegetation of more than 300m<sup>2</sup> within a National Protected Area: Garden Route National Park, for the creation of deck and tent footprints.</p>

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<p><i>open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or</i></p> <p><i>v. On land designated for protection or conservation purposes in an Environmental Management Framework adopted in the prescribed manner, or a Spatial Development Framework adopted by the MEC or Minister."</i></p>	
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Item 14:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more, where such development occurs—</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</i></p> <p><i>i. Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies,</i></p> <p><i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans,</i></p> <p><i>(gg) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</i></p>	<p>The tented camp with combined physical footprint of approx. 1508m<sup>2</sup> to be developed within 32m of a small, man-made and unmapped pond and saddle seep wetland confirmed via an aquatic study.</p>

as described in the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 09 May 2024 at:

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- for the development of the Diepwalle Forest Tented Camp within the Garden Route National Park near Knysna within the Knysna Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property."

The facility will comprise the following:

- Fixed infrastructure is described as follows:
  - 15 Guest tent platforms: (on  $\pm 8.5\text{m} \times 7\text{m}$  decks) in gaps between trees. Tents, fitted with chemical toilet, basin and shower, to be positioned on platforms (to be removed out-of-season);
  - Communal / dining deck partially under stretch tent ( $\pm 20\text{m} \times 15\text{m}$ );
  - Communal toilet, pool deck and hot-tub attached to dining deck:  $\pm 65\text{m}^2$ ;
  - Yoga deck ( $\pm 10\text{m} \times 5\text{m}$ );
  - Raised wooden boardwalks linking decks / raised platforms ( $\pm 130\text{m}$  long  $\times \pm 1.5\text{m}$  wide);
  - 2 x 10 000lt rainwater tanks (2 x  $6.25\text{m}^2$  platforms).
- Temporary / mobile infrastructure / facilities to be placed on ground:
  - Kitchen and storage tents: (two  $\pm 3\text{m} \times 6\text{m}$  and one  $\pm 5\text{m} \times 9\text{m}$ );
  - Staff tents (two  $\pm 3\text{m} \times 4\text{m}$  and one  $\pm 3\text{m} \times 6\text{m}$ );
  - Staff toilets (two  $\pm 2\text{m} \times 2\text{m}$  (male and female));
  - Solar panels, inverter and batteries on mobile trailer;
  - 2 x 'zen' spaces (temporary seating in forest gaps),
  - 1 x forest library in forest gap.
- Services for the camp, the following has been proposed:
  - Water: for the camp will be supplied by a gravity fed pipeline (to be laid of ground surface) from the existing Diepwalle Main Forest Camp reservoirs to two 10 000lt storage tanks positioned in the camp.
  - Sewage: will be handled using sealed chemical toilets which would be swapped for clean replacement containers as required off site. Used containers will be collected and emptied by a service provider at the Knysna Wastewater Treatment Works.
  - Greywater: directed to soak-aways along existing slip-paths in forest.
  - Heating: Gas geysers or rocket donkeys for heating of water and food. The bulk of meals are to be cooked / prepared at the SANParks Main Diepwalle Camp and transported to site. A small satellite kitchen will allow for cooking & heating of food in the camp site.
  - Lighting: Solar panel generator, with batteries on mobile trailer.

### Coordinates of the Project Site:

Corner points	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Centre of site	33° 57' 24" S	23° 10' 19" E
<b>Preferred water pipeline:</b>		
Start	33° 56' 47.55" S	23° 09' 51.78" E
Middle	33° 57' 04.64" S	23° 10' 05.08" E
End	33° 57' 25.16" S	23° 10' 21.69" E

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The Diepwalle Forest Tented Camp within the Garden Route National Park near Knysna within the Knysna Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province is approved as described in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses



and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.

8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

#### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
  - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
  - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

#### **Commencement of the activity**

12. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

#### **Management of the activity**

13. The layout plan attached to the final BAR dated 09 May 2024 as Appendix 05: Preferred Layout Plan is approved.

14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as Appendix H: EMPr Diepwalle Tented Camp as part of the final BAR dated 09 May 2024 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
15. The EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
16. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
17. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the basic assessment be discovered.

#### **Frequency and process of updating the EMPr**

18. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation or EMPr.
19. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
21. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
22. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

## Monitoring

23. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this Environmental Authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
  - 23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
  - 23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
  - 23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
  - 23.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

## Recording and reporting to the Department

24. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this Environmental Authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
25. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
26. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
27. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
28. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.

29. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

### **Notification to authorities**

30. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

### **Operation of the activity**

31. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

### **Site closure and decommissioning**

32. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.

### **Specific conditions**

33. A walk down of the approved site prior to construction activities must be undertaken by a qualified specialist in the relevant season to record all provincially protected species that will be impacted on by the development.
34. A search and rescue for species of conservation concern and other vulnerable species, before areas of intact vegetation are cleared must be done. Such search and rescue must be conducted by relevant experts with experience in search and rescue of the species concerned.
35. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
36. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.

37. Mitigation measures as specified in the Specialist Studies of the final BAR dated 09 May 2024 must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
38. The removal of indigenous plants must be kept to a minimum necessary. Trim, rather than fell of woody species along the edges of the development site where possible. The clearing and damage of plant growth in the riparian and wetland areas must be restricted where possible.
39. A permit must be obtained from the relevant Department for the removal or destruction of indigenous, protected, or endangered plant or animal species (if any) and a copy of such permit/s must be kept by the Holder of the EA and the ECO.
40. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
41. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell, and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are uncovered during construction, work in the immediate area must be halted, and SAHRA must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist (depending on the nature of the finds) must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings.
42. Construction must include design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
43. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

### **General**

44. The recommendations of the EAP in the BAR dated May 2024 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.
45. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 45.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
  - 45.2. to anyone on request; and
  - 45.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

46. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 09/08/2024



**Dr Sabelo Malaza**  
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

## Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

### 1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 06 February 2024.
- b) The information contained in the final BAR dated 09 May 2024.
- c) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the final BAR dated 09 May 2024.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the final BAR dated 09 May 2024 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment Proposed Establishment of the Diepwalle Tented Forest Camp	Confluent Aquatic Consulting and Research	July 2023
Specialist Botanical impact assessment for the proposed establishment of the Diepwalle tented forest camp	Confluent Environmental	January 2024
Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessment Report Proposed Diepwalle Tented Camp, Knysna, Western Cape	Biodiversity Management Services (Pty) Ltd	March 2023
Animal Species Specialist Assessment Report Proposed Diepwalle Tented Camp, Knysna, Western Cape	Biodiversity Management Services (Pty) Ltd	April 2023

### 2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The final BAR dated 09 May 2024 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.

- c) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the final BAR dated 09 May 2024 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- d) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

## Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the final BAR dated 09 May 2024 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the final BAR dated 09 May 2024 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the Environmental Authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. **The Environmental Authorisation is accordingly granted.**



