

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

For the proposed amendment to the current Environmental Authorisation.

Project Name: Shangoni Gate – Part Two Amendment



South African National Parks (SANParks) intends to apply for an amendment to the current Environmental Authorisation, which was issued by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1730), on 5 September 2017.

Location: Kruger National Park North 449 MT in the Kruger National Park, Greater Giyani Local Municipality and Collins Chabane Municipality Lim 345 Local Municipality, Limpopo Province.

SANParks intends to apply for the following amendments:

- Alternative Site 1 for the picnic site which was assessed within the Basic Assessment Report will now become the **preferred picnic site**.
- The approved picnic site will now become the new **camping site**.
- **The layout** of the loop road will be changed.
- **A new Basic Assessment Process** will be undertaken to select a new site for the tented camp.
- **New boreholes** will be drilled at the picnic and camping sites with new reticulation pipelines.
- **Realign the boundaries** for the picnic and camping sites to ensure all developments are behind the 1:100-year flood of the Shingwedzi River.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The main purposes of this background information document are:

- To provide information about the proposed project
- To explain the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process
- To provide an opportunity for participation in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process

This document also indicates how you can receive information, or raise issues, which may be of concern and/or interest for interested and/or affected parties (I&AP's).

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset.

Public participation plays an important role in the undertaking of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, as input from I&AP's ensures all potential issues are considered within the study.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

In terms of Regulations 31, 32 and 33 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), may SANParks apply to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to amend a current Environmental Authorisation (Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1730), which was issued on 5 September 2017. This process is known as the Part 2 Amendment process.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process permits the identification and assessment of potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed amendment.

SANParks will undertake the required Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and appointed **AGES Limpopo (Pty) Ltd** as Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) in order to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, proposing appropriate mitigation and management measures as part of an Environmental Management Programme. This process also gives the opportunity to liaise with interested and affected parties through a public participation process.

Therefore, during the entire Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, I&AP's will be actively and constantly involved.

The main environmental studies will be the following:

- Draft Environmental Impact Report
- Final Environmental Impact Report
- Draft Environmental Management Programme
- Final Environmental Management Programme

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT

A series of preliminary significant environmental issues and potential environmental impacts are currently being investigated and evaluated in terms of the severity, duration, extent, frequency and probability during the construction and the operational phases. The methods to be used are internationally recognised and based on facts, experience and expert opinions.

The following preliminary issues and potential impacts are being evaluated during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process:

- Impacts on vegetation and fauna;
- Impacts on nearby water sources;
- Geological, soil and erosion impacts;
- Impacts on heritage resources; and
- Visual impact.

Specialist studies were conducted to identify all potentially significant impacts, prior to the issuing of the Environmental Authorisation. These impacts will be analysed singularly and cumulatively to exclude the risk of fatal flaws and potential threats, if any, as well as to recommend adequate and effective mitigation measures.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report will highlight areas that should be avoided to limit potential impacts and prescribed mitigation measures will be given to minimise the potential impacts on the environment.

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The public participation process will provide valuable information in the identification of further issues which may require further and specific investigation and analysis during the EIA process. AGES Limpopo will give responses to all comments and queries received from I&AP's and will carefully consider and evaluate all issues raised with the aim of assessing all potential impacts.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

It is important that all relevant I&AP's are identified and involved in the public participation process from the beginning of the project. The public participation process gives the chance to become actively involved through constant sharing of information related to the project.

The main purposes of the public participation process are to ensure that:

- all relevant information relating to the application is made available to I&AP's for their evaluation and review;
- reasonable opportunity is given to I&AP's to comment and to submit queries related to the proposed amendment;
- a review period is provided for interested and affected parties to comment on findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Draft Environmental Management Programme.

The public participation process includes the following phases:

- Phase 1: advertising of the Part Two Amendment process;
- Phase 2: registration of I&AP's and key stakeholders on the database (on-going);
- Phase 3: consultation with and transfer of information to I&AP's through consultation;
- Phase 4: invitation of I&AP's to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report within the stipulated 30-day review period; and
- Phase 5: registration of all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&AP's within an issue's registry, which will form an integral part of the Final Environmental Impact Report.

The public involvement within the phases of an EIA process includes:

- 1. Notification of the Part Two Amendment process**
 - a) Application form sent to DFFE
 - b) Advertising in local and/or regional newspapers
 - c) Inform I&AP's and stakeholders through site notices, background information documents and letters
- 2. Draft Environmental Impact Report**
 - a) Draft Environmental Impact Report and Draft EMPr sent to I&AP's and stakeholders
 - b) Draft Environmental Impact Report and Draft EMPr submitted to DFFE
 - c) Collection of comments from I&AP's and stakeholders
 - d) Comments from DFFE
- 3. Final Environmental Impact Report**
 - a) Final Environmental Impact Report and Final EMPr submitted to DFFE
- 4. Decision Making**
 - a) Acknowledge receipt of Final Environmental Impact Report and Final EMPr
 - b) To Grant or Refuse Amended Environmental Authorisation
 - c) Notification of decision
 - d) Information of stakeholders & I&AP's of decision in writing

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RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN I&AP

In terms of the EIA Regulations of 2014, as amended, please take note of your rights and responsibilities as an I&AP.

To participate in this EIA process as an I&AP, you must be registered on the project database. Please observe that all comments regarding the proposed projects have to be submitted within the stipulated timeframes.

Finally, please be advised that as an I&AP you are required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that you may have in the approval or rejection of the application for the proposed project.

PRELIMINARY TIME SCHEDULE

Public participation process	January 2023
Submission of Draft Environmental Impact Report and Draft EMPr	February 2023
Submission of Final Environmental Impact Report and Final EMPr	March 2023

WHO TO CONTACT

AGES Limpopo (Pty) Ltd

Ms. Hiadee von Well

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Postal Address: P.O. Box 2526, Polokwane 0700 – South Africa

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Please contact Ms. von Well at the above indicated numbers and addresses.

Please complete the enclosed response form and return it to the above indicated numbers and addresses.

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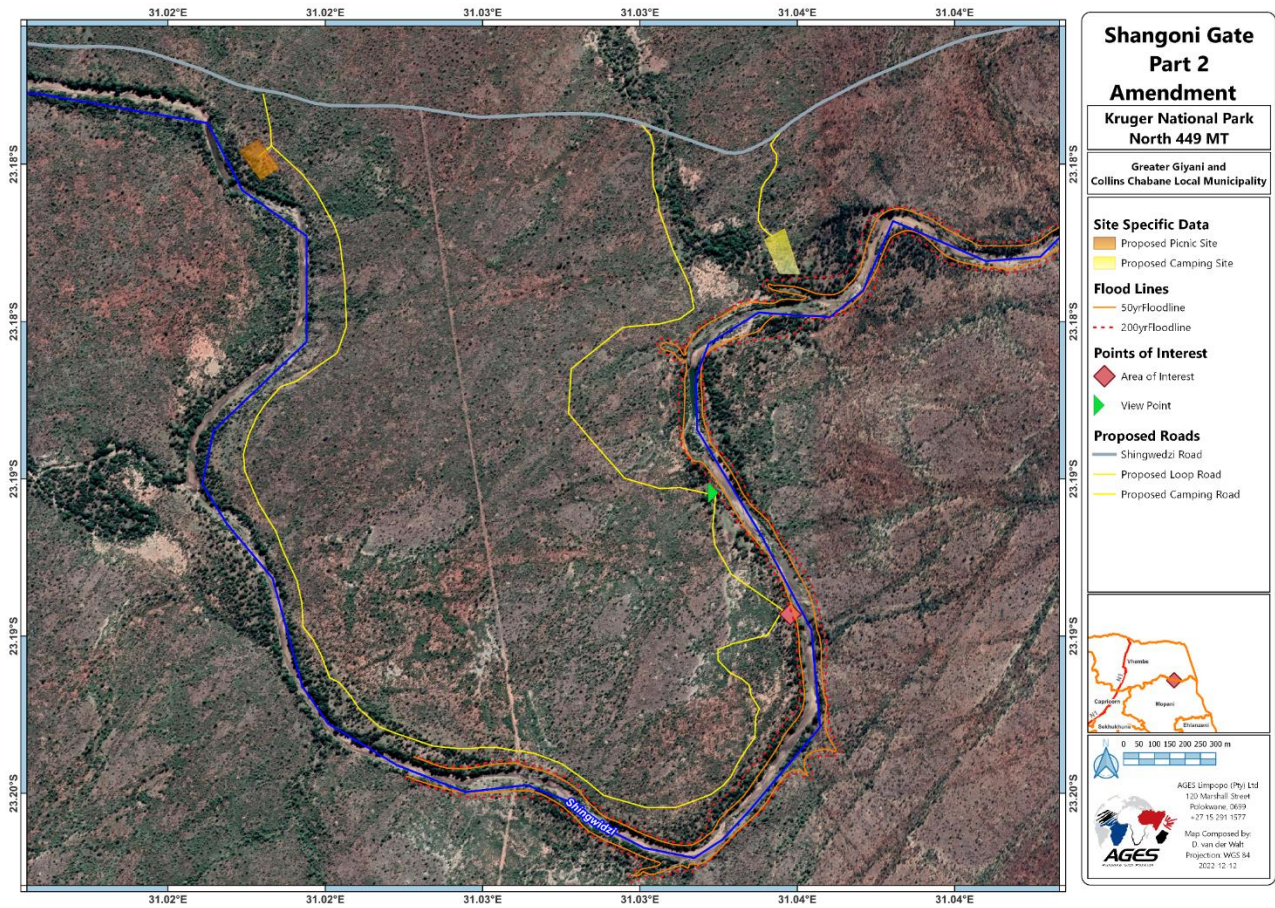


Figure 1. Shangoni Gate Development

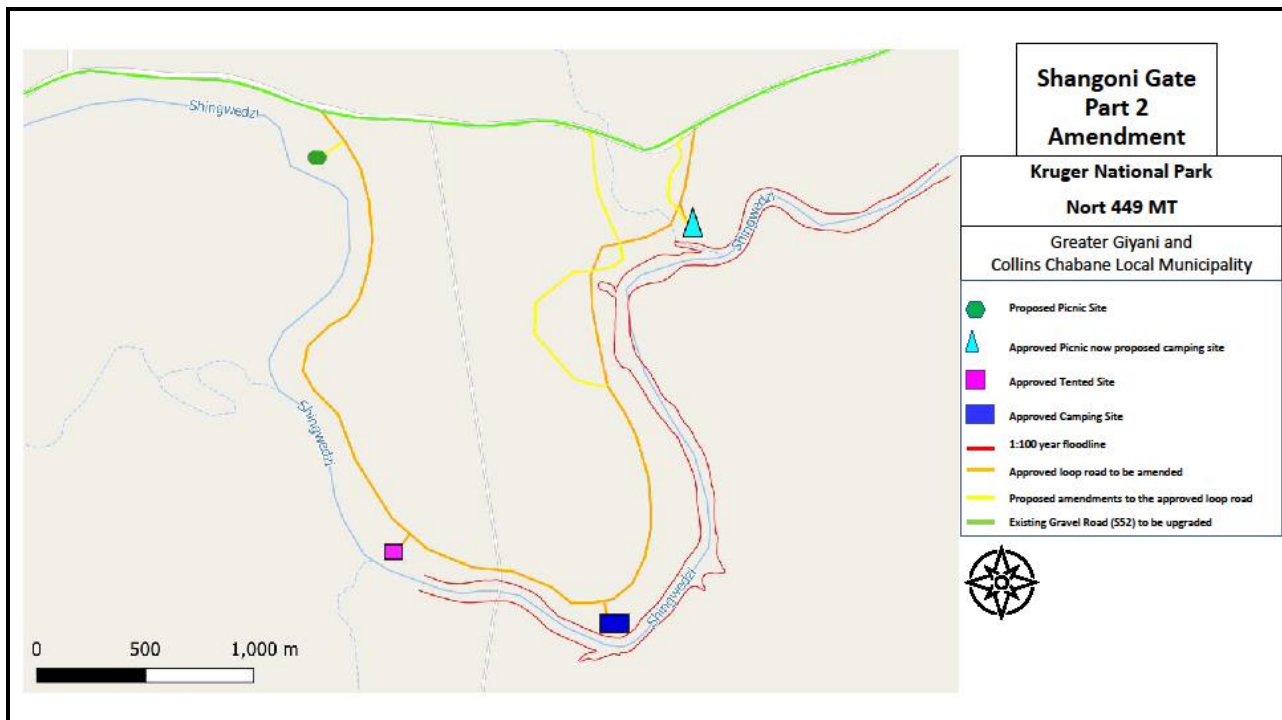


Figure 2. Shangoni Gate Development

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RESPONSE FORM
SHANGONI GATE – PART TWO AMENDMENT

CONTACT DETAILS:

Title: First Name:.....

Surname:.....

E-mail:

Cell: Telephone:.....

Organization (if applicable):

Capacity (e.g. Chairperson, member, etc):

Physical Address.....

Town: Code:

Postal Address:.....

Town: Code:

YOUR INTEREST IN THE MATTER:

1.What is your main area of interest with regards to the proposed project?

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2.Are there any concerns you would like to raise, at this stage, regarding the proposed project?

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3. Are there any additional role-players whom we should involve in the process? If “yes”, please provide us with their contact details (Name, address & telephone numbers):

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BY REGISTERING AS AN I&AP YOU HEREBY CONSENT TO YOUR DETAILS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR DECISION MAKING

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Please add more pages if necessary