



REF: KNP MP review 16/2/2

Enquiries: Mr Glenn Phillips Tel: (013) 735 4361

Ms Nosipho Ngcaba

Director General Environmental Affairs
Private Bag X447
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Dear Ms Ngcaba

RE: DG's intervention and support for the SANParks Kruger National Park Management Plan review and business case for the next 10 years

Purpose

To inform the Director General about the Kruger National Park (KNP) Management Plan review process, and the interventions and support required for successful implementation of the KNP Management Plan.

In seeking to ensure strategic alignment, I hereby respectfully request the Director General's support in arranging for a specific focus group meeting with all relevant officials responsible for macro-economic planning and alignment within Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces, in support of the KNP Management Plan review and finalisation.

To also request support for a meeting between the Director-General of the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Directors-General of both Provinces and environmental sector HODs of both provinces.

Background

The Kruger National Park (KNP) has commenced with the process of reviewing its Management Plan, a requirement by the National Environmental Protected Areas Act no 57 of 2003 (NEM:PAA). The Management Plan will provide the strategic and operational framework for the management and achieving the goals and objectives of the KNP in relation to the broader land use for the next 10 years.

Socio-economic development is one of the three core pillars of SANParks along with conservation and tourism. The SANParks Vision of 'connecting society' is the cornerstone of our engagements with stakeholders. Our core business recognises the importance of maintaining and protecting the conservation estate, whilst having an obligation to positively impact on the well-being of the mainly rural communities adjacent to the KNP.

addo elephant
agulhas
augrabies falls
bontebok
cape peninsula
golden gate highlands
karoo
kgalagadi transfrontier
knysna
kruger
marakele
mountain zebra
namaqua
tankwa karoo
tsitsikamma
richtersveld
vaalbos
vhembe dongola
west coast
wilderness

SANParks has therefore adopted an overarching park management approach that follows a structured consultative process with stakeholders and specialist inputs to develop management objectives and short-, medium- and long-term implementation priorities.

Objectives and envisaged outcomes

The following objectives are being pursued:

1. To review the KNP Management Plan as per legislative framework and within the context of the broader multi-sectoral landscape, in pursuance of the SANParks mandate;
2. To align the KNP Management Plan review with the conservation targets and outcomes set out in the National Development Plan, Ministerial Outcome Delivery Agreement, DEA Strategic Plan and the DEA Wildlife Economy charter;
3. To embed the KNP business case into the micro, meso and macro-economic environment through enhancing multi-sectoral collaboration, integrated development planning and alignment;
4. To unlock barriers that negatively impact on the SANParks strategic objectives, by promoting partnerships and prioritising interventions to address environmental, safety and security, policy, health, and educational constraints within the local and broader KNP regional landscape.

The following are the desired outcomes:

1. Ensuring that the KNP Management Plan along with its strategic and operational plans adequately addresses current and emerging constraints; prior to the final review and ultimate approval by the Minister;
2. That the KNP becomes one of the key drivers for socio-economic development within Mpumalanga and Limpopo local and macro-economies;
3. That the KNP is recognized as catalyst for promoting a multi-sectoral regional initiatives and interventions pertaining to tourism; safety and security; conservation and environmental management and planning; and human well-being;
4. That the KNP functions and its long-term sustainability and existence are being protected and supported through strengthening cooperative governance.

Challenges

Whilst SANParks and KNP have the potential to make a significant contribution to the local and regional economies and well-being of communities, major constraints have been identified during the respective consultative processes. SANParks and KNP can only address many of these through proper integrated development planning at the local and macro level, which will require engagement and future collaboration with the private industry and sectors at all tiers of government.

Key themes that emerged through the public consultation process are as follows:

- **Social Wellbeing:** concerns about human health and the lack of basic services;
- **Poor infrastructure and access to the KNP;**
- **A lack of education, training and skills development opportunities and facilities;**
- **Safety and security:** crime within communities and poaching of wildlife within the KNP;
- **Socio-economic environment:** unemployment and poverty, lack of local business development and linkages to broader regional initiatives.
- **Slow transformation of the conservation sector, lack of meaningful beneficiation, finances and capacity to support community initiatives and shareholding.**
- **Policy environment and Cooperative governance:** poor integrated development planning and conflicting sectoral interests and policy environments. Poor cooperative governance, conflicting and non-standardised policy frameworks, management and regulation of conservation areas open to KNP (state, community and private).
- **Tourism opportunities not enhanced at a regional scale.**
- **Service delivery strikes and poor integration within the local government planning processes;**
- **Global drivers such as climate change, droughts, floods, global economic drivers etc. impacting on the KNP business.**

In addition to these, the KNP faces the following challenges:

Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate operational funding and dependency on external funding • Infrastructure maintenance • High costs of security negatively impacts on funding that could have been allocated for socio-economic development
External influences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disasters such as drought, floods, pollution, invasive and disease. • Incompatible land use developments • Unrealistic expectations to deliver benefits
Socio-economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful beneficiation • Supporting enabling policy environment • Capacity to unlock financial support
Legislative and Institutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated policy framework across sectors • Conflicting legislation
Safety and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poaching • Tourism safety • Staff well-being • Crime
Media relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect reporting • Unregulated social media
Capacity and procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled and adequate capacity • Cumbersome procurement and contracting processes
Constituency building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration and alignment of core business with other sectors • Champions for such integrated land use approaches • Trust

Further required steps

It is suggested that the KNP pursues integrated development planning and promote cooperative governance through the following mechanisms and processes:

- Participation in relevant provincial socio-economic cluster committees;
- Meaningful participation and planning at the Provincial, District and Local government planning processes;
- Promoting local and regional integration and cooperation with safety, security and intelligence structures to combat wildlife crime and human safety;
- KNP is seen as a catalyst, but no key driver of issues related to human health, education and animal health, and that platforms such engagement be formalised and enhanced through the KNP Management plan process and structures;
- Engaging with the Minister and DEA to unlock barriers with the Provincial Conservation authorities with respect to managing and regulating private, state and community owned conservation areas open to KNP;
- Foster and enhance trans-boundary relationships through pursuing the GLTP Treaty objectives, developing sustainable strategic and operational charters to be implemented through the KNP Management Plan;
- KNP to act as catalyst for meaningful community beneficiation in collaboration with the private sector and other sectors.

Recommendations:

The following is recommended:

1. That the DG supports in arranging for a specific focus group meeting with relevant officials from Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces responsible for Macro-economic planning and alignment within these provinces, in support of the KNP Management Plan review and finalization;
2. The Director General also supports the invitation of Directors-General, HODs and relevant officials from the two provinces to a meeting in KNP as part of a consultative process to review the KNP Management Plan;
3. That such an Indaba takes place within the next two months in order to ensure that inputs can be incorporated into the KNP Management Plan;

Yours sincerely



Mr Fundisile Mketeni
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 31 MAY 2017