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## PROPOSED SHANGONI GATE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 at 14:00 at the SanParks Pretoria Office, Gauteng Province.

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#### **Meeting Attendees:**

- 1) Thabang Sekele (TS) – Environmental Consultant and Project Manager for the EIA process
- 2) Blake Schraader (BS) – SANParks KNP Technical Services Manager
- 3) Gerhard Smith (GS) – I&AP (AIKHONA)
- 4) Alfred De Groot (AG) – I&AP
- 5) Nigel Fernsby (NF) - I&AP
- 6) Lanette Smith (LS) - I&AP
- 7) Elise Tempelhoff (ET) – Environmental Journalist – The Beeld
- 8) Tracy Lee Peterson (TP) – SANParks KNP Strategic Conservation Planner and Environmental Manager
- 9) Dalian Govender (DG) – Envirolution Consulting (recording minutes)

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#### **Purpose of the Meeting:**

The purpose of this meeting was to engage the public (Interested and Affected Parties) and allow them the opportunity to raise any issues and/ or concerns based on the release of the Proposed Shangoni Gate Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) and any other project related topics.

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#### **Summary:**

**Introduction by Thabang Sekele** - Thabang welcomed everyone for their attendance and introduce the project as well as the reason for the meeting. A round of introductions were then conducted:

- 1) Thabang Sekele (TS) – Environmental Consultant who compiled the DBAR and will conduct the presentation which provides a summary of the proposed development.

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- 2) Blake Schraader (BS) – SANParks KNP Technical Services Manager
  - 3) Gerhard Smith (GS) – I&AP
  - 4) Alfred De Groot (AG) – I&AP
  - 5) Nigel Fernsby (NF) - I&AP
  - 6) Lanette Smith (LS) - I&AP
  - 7) Elise Tempelhoff (ET) – Environmental Journalist – The Beeld
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TS thereafter stated the house rules of the meeting before continuing with a power point presentation of the proposed development. Furthermore Thabang informed all those present that questions should be held till the question and answer section of the presentation.

Questions which were asked during the presentation have been tabulated first whilst questions asked at the end of the presentation have been tabulated in a second table.

After all questions were asked, the meeting was adjourned at 16:30 pm.

Question/ Comment/ Concern	Response
Gerhard Smith: "Will we get a chance to speak individually?"	Thabang Sekele: "Yes"
Nigel Fernsby "What is the population of Altein?"	TS: " The exact numbers of the population figures are contained in the report of which I cannot recall at first hand. Kindly refer to the DBAR for that info.
Alfred De Groot "Is there an access route between the preferred gate and Altein?"	Blake Schraader: 'Yes there is an access road between the preferred and Altein'
NF ' What date will the FBAR be released ?"	TS: " 140 days from submission of the application form which was submitted on the 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017"
GS: "Will the minutes be sent to I&AP's to be approved before the FBAR can be released?"	TS "There is no provision to have the minutes approved in the EIA regulations, however the minutes will be included in the FBAR". Access to the minutes will be granted.
GS: "We would like the minutes of the meeting in order to scrutinize it as well as access to the FBAR before it goes to DEA (Department of Environmental Affairs). We would not like to look at it and distress later on."	TS "With regards to the EIA regulations, the public have a chance to view DBAR during the review period however it is not mandated for the FBAR to be submitted to the public".
TS "With regards to the EIA regulations, the public have a chance to view DBAR during the review period however it is not mandated for the FBAR to be	GS: ' Save yourself a lot of trouble, I do not trust DEA or the consultants'

submitted to the public for scrutiny and comments”	
GS: ‘ Save yourself a lot of trouble, I do not trust DEA or the consultants’	BS: ‘We note what you are saying however we are following the EIA processes’
GS: ‘I want to see the FBAR as I have had experience in 2011. If DEA says that releasing FBAR to public is not part of the process then we will go to court’. The minutes must be written correctly to avoid problems. I would like the FBAR and I do not see where it says you cannot make a concession to the FBAR’	TS: ‘ I will consult with DEA and get back to you’
NF: ‘Why has a full EIA not been done? I can’t understand why a Basic Assessment (BA) has been done?’	TS: ‘According to the 2014 EIA regulations certain activities trigger a BA and certain activities trigger an S&EIR. We consulted with DEA before submission of the application, DEA confirmed that the activity falls within the triggers of a Basic Assessment.’
NF: ‘I cannot believe the project falls within a BA and not a full EIA’	TS: As mentioned the process to follow is stipulated in the EIA Regulations. The applicable process in relation to this proposed development is that a BA process must be followed.
AD read out his own document on the procedure for an EIA and then stated “Public participation is the last step and we are part of the affected parties involved” Why is the proposed development not available for public comment in the beginning of the project?’	TS: Notification of the project was conducted in 2016. The public have been consulted throughout the entire phase of this proposed development. Proof of this can be seen in the DBAR.
Elise Tempelhoff arrived at 14:50 and BS explained the project: ‘A tourist gate has been proposed half-way in between Punda Maria and Phalaborwa in the form of a tourist gate with reception buildings.	
ET: ‘How many gates, after this one, will there be?’	BS: Currently, there are 12 gates.
ET: ‘Is it just the gate development or are there other activities?’	TS: ‘ Picnic sites, camp sites, rest camps and a tar road are also proposed’  BS: ‘ Western Section will connect to the areas of Giyani, Malamulele and Phalaborwa
NF: ‘What type of tar road would it be?’	BS: An all-weather type gravel road. SANParks prefers a tar road from a strategic point of view. In my experience I conclude that a tar road is environmentally friendlier than a gravel road. We are looking into options of making the tar road colour blend in with the surroundings.
AG explained the EIA process from a list he had printed out and then asked: ‘How do you feel about the project following a basic assessment process?’	TS: ‘The EIA process is divided into the Basic Assessment (BA) and the Scoping and Assessment (full EIA). This proposed development triggers a BA. The EIA regulations are the blue print to which we as environmental practitioners look to for guidance on environmental assessment.
AG: ‘The BA does not recognize outside participation	TS: ‘The KNP is valuable to me as it is unique part of

and that the KNP (Kruger National Park) is a preferential development zone.’ AG went on to read the letter of concerns and read out answers as to how people see the KNP. He further asked Thabang: ‘how valuable is the KNP to you?’	South Africa and our heritage.’  BS: ‘Please can we ask relevant questions which stick to the facts of this BA process.’
AG went on to highlight the importance of the KNP and how recognizable it is. He further posed the question: ‘Why is the KNP subject to such a low assessment i.e BA, why not a full scoping and assessment report?’	TS: ‘We are guided by the 2014 EIA Regulations which is read in conjunction with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). As the law states, we are required to do a BA and not an S&EIR.’ It would be contrary to the regulations if we did a full S&EIR.
AG: ‘What type of assessment do you feel needs to be done?’	TS: ‘Let’s not get personal I am purely guided by the regulations’  TLP: ‘Environmental Consultants are independent and follow due processes set by the Department of Environmental Affairs.’
NF read out an article written by the Canadian Conservation Lab’s Harvery Lock on the state of parks in Africa. According to the article, since 1885 population of SA has risen this has caused game species to be squeezed out. He further stated that he is scared of the commercialization going on in the park. He made reference in particular to other game parks in Canada which have been modified in which the wilderness has been removed for creatures. Furthermore, he stated: ‘Giraffe numbers have fallen, Martial Eagles numbers have dropped, Black wing kites (bird) has aslo fallen due to the footprint of the camp. We need to respect these things as too much built infrastructure exist It is a tragedy in the making. In 1885 there was a lower population and of less value in the world. Bee populations are deteriorating, which account for 60% of food production. SanParks have continually lie about footprint to the highest level’	TS: ‘ You are welcome to submit your information in which you referred here which will be included in the FBAR for DEA to review and consider.
NF; ‘Decision making authorities should be made accountable. Can the letter be forwarded to DEA?’	TS: ‘Yes. All comments will be included in the FBAR’
NF: ‘Has a flow in regime been conducted to determine how electricity and water will be provided?’	BS: ‘We are in the process of a Water Use License (WUL) and a flow regime. Water will be sourced from boreholes and solar power will be used.’
ET: ‘How far are the camps from the Shingwezi River?’	BS indicated on the map that the camps will be along a loop near the river and will fall outside the 1:100 year flood line.
NF: ‘How far are the camps from the river?’	TS: ‘The camps will be placed on the outside of the 1:100 year floodline.’  BS: ‘Attributes such as vegetation and ground cover will be considered whilst constructing the rustic

	camps.'
ET: 'How far is the camps from the gate development?'	BS: 'Approximately 15km.'
NF: 'How far from the floodline is the camps and why has a 1:200 year floodline not been used?'	BS: 'We will stay outside the floodline and we have not used a 1:200 floodline because it depends on the risk and infrastructure affected. In this case we used a 1:100 year floodline.'
AG: Endeavours is very much politically slanted 'What budgets were allocated by SanParks for developments outside the peripheral area and what has been granted by the Government?' and 'Where do you access from?'	TS: 'The BA will assess from the border and gate inwards.'
AG: 'A lot of talk of developments outside the park. Where do you start and where do you stop, and budgets as well.'	TS: 'With regards to budgets I may not have insight into that but in terms of our scope of assessment we are assessing inside the park.'
AG: 'Do you have jurisdiction 3km out of the park and covering anything budgetary wise?'	TLP: 'We don't have.'
NF: 'Are evacuation facilities available at the gate?'	BS: 'No.' Our budget is made available by Department of National Tourism and only covers the boundary of the park to inside. So the funding we use towards the project we pay the consultants specifically- that's a portion of the funding.
AG: 'So you are basically covering from the boundary, we cannot ask you questions about educational hubs and roadworks, although it was mentioned?'	NF: 'No you putting educational facilities at the gate aren't you?'
	TS: 'We are putting educational facilities at the reception area which will be inside the park.'
AG: 'There is a political slant in all these activities the DEA are undertaking and it concerns us gravely, funds seem to be channeled lately not pointing to SanParks, but it is just hectic, if you trying to understand what we trying to get at. This would be a prime example of such activities.'	TS: Comments noted.
NF: 'I think everyone would totally love education centers but I don't like it to be put in as an eye-wash just to soften us. It won't soften us.'	
AG: 'In my letter I applaud the minister for her endeavors to uplift the community. There is a vast setion of just vastness and those people are neglected. So I applaud her initiatives for that but I would just like to have clarity – what is governments responsibility and what is SanParks responsibility?'	TLP 'Yes.'
NF: Is the peripheral development zone that they put in that area, is that in place as well?	GS: 'Yes, and those sections are added on.'
	BS: 'I am not sure whether you guys have seen the full feasibility study leading to the opening of this gate.'
AG: 'I would prefer to take Pafuri and pop out at the	BS: 'You guys have asked Thabang about a filling

<p>bottom. Personally I do not like these gates but there is a need in a sense for that gate, that section of society are neglected to be quiet honest.'</p>	<p>station in Altein, if you look at the feasibility study this development will unlock development within the community itself. Like what's happened with all our gates with convenience stores, tyre repairs stores and supermarkets. It is unlocking a lot of potential to alleviate poverty because of people going through that area to the gate to the park.'</p> <p>NF: ' We would all favour that greatly .'</p> <p>BS: 'That report is available if you guys would like to see it.'</p>
<p>AG: 'It also alleviates congestion at other gates in terms of traffic assessments and there's another big question. Why was there no traffic assessment done properly?'</p>	<p>TS: 'With regards to the traffic assessment, comments that have been coming through during the review stage are being considered in terms of the traffic assessment. We have received your comments with regards to that and further looking into that.'</p>
<p>GS: ' We will get that assessment, so just like any of these other assessments that has come in, this will have to be open for discussion, you realize that Thabang?'</p>	<p>TS: 'With regards to the specialist assessments taken, any new specialist assessment taken will be subjected to 30 days review as well.'</p>
<p>GS: 'It will have to be. So this means we may have another meeting here somewhere on that.' This is what I'm saying because the assessments come in and I'm going to say this again the assessors are always not objective, and the reason why they are not always objective is the dog will never bite the hand that feeds it, ever. And half these assessors go out saying – if you want approval come and see me because I have the contacts and I will do that. I'm not saying it's you, that's why I know assessors and I've spoken to many of them and they said fine come see me and we'll help you – now that's not being objective that's being subjective. And please I am not talking about Envirolution or Thabang or Tracy or whoever. Did I mentioned people in Department of Environmental Affiars who do the assessment and the recommendations? One of the chaps there is an honorary ranger in the KNP and the honorary rangers have been forbidden to express anything negative about the developments in the KNP – I've got that as a fact as well. That's why I say you understand why I am the way I am, but I haven't gotten the opportunity to say my say yet. I'm talking from experience.</p>	<p>TS: View noted. as metioned, any new specialist studies undertaken will be subject to all registered IAPs review and comment.</p>
<p>AG: 'Specialist studies have been done, now how were these advertised and awarded?' Do we have access to such info?'</p>	<p>TS: 'Are you talking about how specialists were appointed?'</p> <p>GS: 'How you won the bid.'</p>

	<p>AG: 'How they won the bid.'</p> <p>TS: 'We as Envirolution or the specialist?'</p> <p>AG: 'Well if you want to include yourself, sure.'</p> <p>TS: ' In that regard I think proper due process was done for this, this is as much as I can comment.'</p>
<p>GS: 'Well you chaps bided for the work and you won the bid. Is this is what you telling us?'</p>	<p>TS: 'Yes'</p> <p>GS and AG: 'That's good enough for me and your assessors?' Did you appoint them and did you also put it out as a tendor?'</p> <p>TS: 'No, with regards to, we appointed our specialist, they are out there in the field like any other specialist.'</p> <p>GS: ' You know to tell you – I know of these specialist and I will mention a name – Dr Genaas Vertemaak, he did the Vertebrate Assessment. He was one of the appointed specialist for Skukuza and when we started objecting, he wanted to know who gives us the right to object against this, that's how these assessors are. And eventually there was a mediator and he told the specialist – you are wrong. We were to him just a nuisance and an annoyance. So Thabang I think after I've spoken and I've still got quite a few things to say, you will realise why we are having this attitude.'</p> <p>NF: 'Well that assessor was actually dismissed from the Transvaal Museum, for dishonesty.'</p>
<p>GS: ' That may be so but he is the assessor for the vertebrates and mammal thing. Could I ask a few things?' I've got a few questions here and I've said – is SanParks your client- were you appointed by SanParks?'</p> <p>TS: 'Yes.'</p> <p>GS: 'What was your request or instruction to carry out?'</p>	<p>TS: 'Our terms of reference were to conduct the EIA process with regards to the proposed development. So this means putting into motion the application to DEA in order to obtain an environmental decision for the proposed development.'</p> <p>GS: 'So once you've done all of this, you do the Final BA, what do you do then? You send it to DEA but before that you then recommend that that be approved of or we just say we are objective – you make the decision, you scrutinize it you analyze it and you decide or do you chaps say we recommend that this project be approved of?.'</p> <p>TS: 'There is a section in the Basic Assessment report where it outlines the recommendation of the EAP (Environmental Assessment Practitioner). Yes we do offer a recommendation and it is based on the</p>

	<p>investigations done, taking everything from the vertebrate studies to the public participation. There is no stone we don't look at. We take all that into consideration'</p> <p>GS: 'In my opinion – that's right.'</p> <p>GS: 'This is like a rugby coach, it doesn't matter the score we won. Do you understand what I'm saying? You recommend what you think whether it's right or wrong it doesn't matter. And of course everyone will recommend. If you ask me- I may change later – but if anyone would recommend his own opinion it doesn't matter what the opposition says.'</p>
<p>GS: 'Thabang this is something we had discussions on. I've said here you refused a meeting in Gauteng subsequently I had to approach the SanParks CEO and KNP managing executive to have this meeting today. Why?' 'On what basis did you refuse the meeting, you said the meeting at Mopani Conference Centre was sufficient?'</p>	<p>TS: 'With regards to requirements in the EIA regulations. I went with the minimum requirements in terms of the public meeting. The EIA regulations say a meeting should be held of which it was already held. It was held within the park within the development area so with regards to having this meeting in the KNP or closer to the area that was the basis of why the meeting held in Mopani Conference Centre was sufficient enough in terms of the public participation.'</p> <p>GS: 'What made you think the meeting was sufficient?'</p> <p>NF: 'Surely with the population numbers.'</p>
<p>GS: 'What made you think the meeting in Mopane, for the interest of the people sitting here, if the meeting is held in Mopane travelling up there – 700km which is a day. So we leave here and need to sleep over, following day you have a meeting, sleep over and return home – 3 days.'</p>	<p>TS: 'As I said, with regards to that because the development is taking place within the Kruger Park that was the basis of which I based my decision because travelling from Mopane to Gauteng it is 3 days as you said but with regards to the decision was based on the regulations minimum requirements set – you may hold a public participation meeting in the development area.'</p> <p>GS: 'I think you realize now the minimum is not always enough. If someone tells you he's thirsty and here's a teaspoon of tea- he may need half a litre. Do you understand what I'm saying? I'm urging you to remember that the minimum is not always sufficient. But what surprises me is why I had to go to the CEO after I've communicated with you to arrange this meeting? This annoys me. I understand the logic but creates the impression let's keep these people away if possible and why I'm saying this is –David Mabunda who use to spend his life here when I tackled him about public participation and meetings is he said they were trying to avoid public awareness because they didn't want to make a big 'hoo-hah' about this. I trust you remember what I just said to you. Minimum</p>



	requirement is not always sufficient.
ET: 'Was the Mopane meeting already held?'  GS: 'Yes.'  ET: 'Okay how many people were there? Were they all holiday makers?'	TS: 'No those were Interested and affected parties mainly from the local adjacent areas.' Around 50-52 attendees during that meeting.'
GS: 'I'm going to say something now that frustrates me. Is people who have a lot to say but when the opportunity arises to come and say it – it's just the few of us. I'm not intimidated by anyone ever.'	
GS: 'Who will manage and operate these developments? In other words the tented camps, the tent area and the gate?'	BS: 'We are going to operate the gate. The tenting camp and camping site we have not made a decision whether we are going to do it ourselves or whether we will make it available as a community partnership project.'  GS: 'When are you going to make that decision?'  BS: 'Once we have the RoD to commence with the project we will make a decision.'
GS: 'Isn't that a bit late?' and I'll tell you why I differ from you is very few of the prioritized facilities in the KNP have really been a success. I'm talking about restaurants (further mentions concessions in the KNP), few years ago these people had to renegotiate their terms with SanParks because they weren't financially viable and I said in my objection. I have no objections against this development provided it stays within SanParks and I'm talking about SanParks managing them but if SanParks has to privatize this – I have a huge problem with it and it is something I have an objection. If we looking at job creation – it's fine it's wonderful. There are many unemployed people there.  I said 'if not SanParks why? A suitable alternative would be to recruit local residents and train them and make use of them that's the alternative and I'm telling you now if it is decided that this is to be privatized there is going to be a 'hoo-hah'. This is for Blake's attention to tell Glen.  I said 'What will be the benefit to SanParks if other parties manage and operate this development?'	BS: ' We always need to consider how do we make better communities and are we providing all benefits to the communities where we can? So this is what I'm saying to you Gerhard – we haven't made the decision yet from the gate we will manage it but if there is an opportunity for a private company from the outside being a partnership with Kruger during the development and the operating – I'm sure that's something that SanParks will consider.
GS: 'And most likely agree to? If anyone had to come up and ask to be given a chance they will do it and you can mark my word- I have got information that SanParks are considering privatizing of rest camps in	BS: 'It will be the same as all other gates.'  GS: 'No after hour access i.e. normal gate hours.'

<p>the KNP. I've got that information. How will this development benefit biodiversity and conservation?' Please tell me anyone?'</p> <p>I have objections against on what is on that loop provided SanParks manage it. I've also been over there, most of them retired, it is a wonderful area. Jas Andendorf called that area the eden of the Kruger Park.</p> <p>What other ad-ons are SanParks planning for this area in the foreseeable future? Because I know and I will tell you now now.</p> <p>What will the access hours to these facilities be?</p>	
<p>GS: 'What necessitates a 50.6km tarred road? I would like to know?' From the gate up to red rocks. At least we going to have a picnic spot, we going to have 20 tents in the tent camp, and we going to have 20 camping spots there. In other words we have 40 accommodation units. Why a 50.6km tarred road? The dirt road is big enough and adequate.'</p> <p>AG: ' May I add to your argument. In that same road you will be crossing 43 drainage lines as indicated in A3, B and C will be encountered. Culverts and other civil engineering aspects will be needed to prevent erosion and silting. Will the cost justify the practice cost?' Then existing ranger road photo 2, 12 and 13 is in good enough condition to accommodate the traffic that other sand roads. Will the upgrade of the sand not be feasible enough and leave it as a sand road?</p>	<p>BS: 'What the intention is initially, in terms of the EIA process, we've asked that we upgrade to a tar road. If you look at Kruger's primary road corridor you will see that all the strategic access in and out of the park are tarred. So one of our principles in providing access is that to do it via a tar road because a gravel road is not a 24/7 access road because when we have excessive rains situations we do need to close roads. In terms of a strategic access point tar roads are preferred. Now if you look at the gates access to Palabora and Puna. This is a strategic access, even as a civil engineer, and if you quote me quote me in my personal capacity, I believe a tar road in terms of environmental damage is far less impact. That is my personal opinion as a civil engineer. When I build a tar road I reseal it every 10 years with natural sands that are moving through the park, if I build a gravel road every 10 to 11 years I need to replace the wearing course which means I dig a hole in the park and put a wearing course on top. I'm of the opinion that a tar road is far less environmental damage than a gravel road because of the impacts that dust has on plants on a gravel road. I can name a lot of impacts but in terms of building a green infrastructure it is far more environmentally friendly. The only thing I would like to do is build it with a calavis binder so it looks like a sand road. I will be moving natural sand from the escarpment and sand seal on top of the road, I am putting a sand seal on top of all my roads which I environmentally friendly.</p> <p>So in terms of the drainage lines you talk about, you will find that there is a lot of smaller contributors flowing downwards. To handle those professionally in the right manner we need to make sure we handle them so you don't get erosion through your roads so that why we putting those 43 drainage structures on</p>

	<p>that road.</p> <p>Initially, even as a gravel road, the funding that we have currently available, we only allow us to upgrade that road to what we call – an all weather two spoortrek. This is the funding I have available now. This means we will allow people to access through our gate if they do have a high-rise vehicle or a 4x4. As soon as we do get funding available then we will upgrade it.</p>
AG: 'Yes, I do get that impression. I like the idea of a more natural look type binding material. It leads me to my next question now – to build a tar road it takes sand, there's layers inbetween to build it up to that level, where are you going to obtain that sand?'	BS: 'There will be gravel bits required which will be used in a base layer and sub-base layer. For the tar road I will stabilize the base layer because I will put a seal on top.'
GS: 'We talking about whose funding the tar road?'	<p>BS: 'There is no funding for that currently.'</p> <p>GS: 'When you find the funding we is going to supply the money?'</p> <p>BS: 'Gerhard I cannot comment on that because we haven't even applied for funding yet. We have only received funding for the associated immediate gravel road we haven't applied for funding for the tar road'</p>
<p>GS: 'But aren't we then jumping the gun, shouldn't we have said fine we – this 50.6km tarred road is going to cost you 150 million rand atleast.</p> <p>GH: 'So this is additional cost if you don't tar it. Why do we have to tar this road for the occasional school bus coming from Giyani or going to picnic spot or Shngwezi or the tent camp or tent areas. 165 million for that, is a bit expensive</p>	<p>BS: '165 million rand.'</p> <p>BS: 'You need to see this road in the broader context of the road. This is not a supply road to the tent camps, it forms part of bigger road network. It is a circle route that we are creating</p>
<p>GH: 'Do you know who else is going to use that road?'</p> <p>GH: 'And who else?'</p> <p>GH: 'I'll tell you who else is going to use this road, the people going to Mozambique, going through Pafuri border gate, going to Keriando and back. This is what this road is being tarred for, forget those other reasons.</p>	<p>BS: 'Normal visitors, people entering the park.'</p> <p>BS: 'Businesses and locals.'</p>
AG: 'The proposed entrance layout shows many parking bays, buses and cars, envisaged traffic numbers are on the high. Appendix C3A and C3B show more parking facilities in fact 3 times as much entry as opposed to the amount leaving the park on the maps. There' parking bays now allocated for traffic – it seems like exiting is far less than the entering. Is	BS: 'What we doing colleagues, we are busy with a project where, we in terms of managing visitors, we looking at this concept of 'park and ride'. Park at the entrance and out you in an open vehicle. That is a concept we are exploring and all our gates we are providing additional parking so we can accommodate

<p>there a specific reason for this?’</p>	<p>the park and ride scheme.</p> <p>The second one is normally the processing time it takes a lot longer than exiting the park in terms of the visitors stopping and going to the environmental center, going to reservations, we look at that and when leaving it normally is just the check-out.</p>
<p>GS: ‘Can I embark on these open safari vehicles? SanParks are discouraging private individuals to go to the Kruger Park, they are encouraging the open safari vehicle operators to make use of it.’ (Safari vehicles jump the queue). Safari vehicles given the right to jump the queue to go in. This is being done for the tourist and is going to be converted into a highway to Mozambique and back. Don’t believe it if SanPark says they have rules – these rules mean nothing. On the website it says if you want to go through an access boarder gate, you need to sleep over – that’s a lie ( personally experience people travelling through camp using boarder gate who had not stayed over).</p>	
<p>GS: ‘On what grounds did you decide that traffic assessment need not be carried out? Then I asked on how many vehicles per day was your decision taken, what type of vehicles were considered and what will the destination of these vehicles be? This is very relevant. Thabang you somewhere said and told me that this traffic assessment was handled by the people who did the mammal assessment. They not qualified to do this.’</p> <p>‘If we don’t get a traffic assessment we are going to delay this for a long time.’</p> <p>‘There is also no need and desirability assessment being done. This is required in Notice 891 of 2014 Integrated Environmental Management Guidelines series 9. Guidelines on the need and desirability in terms of the EIA act regulation 2010. Now this is not the first time this has not been available. It was not available for Malelane, for Skukuza of for this. If you read this notice it says it must be made available. It is not an option.’</p> <p>‘What measures are SanParks taking to ensure that the speed limits are being adhered to?’ Now I come to my problem with a tar road and a dirt road. You travel by gravel road you are restricted by quality of the road surface, you travel on tar road – you can travel any speed you like. So I want to know - ‘What measures are SanParks taking to ensure that the speed limits are being adhered to?’</p> <p>‘What measures are SanParks taken that road kills will</p>	<p>BS: ‘ We will send our replies and get back get to you.’</p>

not take place?' (Shows slides displaying road kill compilation)

Do not say we have law-enforcement officers – that's way far from the high traffic flow or high traffic density. So people must not say they will allocate one there, then there will be one less where they were supposed to be.'

NF: 'Your traffic officers (SanParks) are no good when you get a chap like Nsemang who gave his friend to go into the park in the dark to a certain camp and someone followed up the next day and there were several things killed on the road.'

GS: 'I want to know what SanParks are going to do to stop road kills. What I want to hear is that we will atleast employ two people to do 365 days law-enforcement there.

'I want to know what measures SanParks have taken place to ensure poaching does not take place during construction as well as the operational phase of the Shangoni project?'

'These people are going to make roads they going to build, normally when you go to the Kruger park and the people working for water or cutting grass they have an armed ranger with them so you going to need quite a few armed rangers. These chaps will need to be there 365 days and 24/7. Why I'm saying that? When these guys build the road they are going to have construction camps, and they will establish camp inside because they have stuff which can be stolen and it is too much to go out the gate outside the park.'

'These chaps are 40km from site so now they have to leave early to be there by 6:00 am. You going to need people there supervising them at Shangoni at each work site. So who saw the increase in poaching incidents during the construction phase and what were there comments?'

'Will SanParks have a reliable person on site during the road and bridge building period? Surely those construction camps are not going to be left unguarded.'

GS: 'These people need to be policed. Every little group will need to be policed, you are not going to need one extra field rangers but many'.

GS: 'We talking about developing in the Kruger Park. SanParks are planning 1000 extra beds in the KNP of those 40 are just a few. There will be after gate access hours at Palabora. (Gerhard thereafter named camps

BS: 'We have a new principle that our constractors stay outside the park and come in with the bus every morning. We do take measures depending on how far they work, this is for periphery camps not for camps like lower Sabie. We manage the contractors so they don't have to stay inside the park.'

BS: ' You will understand how we do the construction camps, if they are for vehicles, how the EMP works, how rangers are deployed. All sites are deployed with a field rangers for protection and to oversee workers on site.

and associated bed numbers). SanParks are currently on a campaign to offer opportunities for people to become partners. They looking at 200 mobile safari tents – 30 tents at Pafuri and 33 tree top camps at two different venues plus the Malelane camp 240 beds plus Skukuza hotel 220 which rounds up to 1000 more beds for the KNP. This is includes concessions.

GS: 'I do realize that there may be an increased demand, however some time some including SANParks Management will have to realize that the saturation point has been reached. I now then request that SANParks openly and unambiguously declare what they estimate the saturation point be and also what their future Tourism Development plans are. What appears is that Tourism Development is becoming prioritized above Conservation.'

GS: 'I have information that SANParks are considering the privatization of their rest camp facilities in the KNP, I request that SANParks unambiguously admit or deny this. Should they admit this to also state the reasons for these plans and then also put it to public debate whether this is in order or not.'

'My reason for objecting to the privatization (selling off of our National Parks and the relinquishing of responsibilities) is that not very many of the privatization plans have been successful e.g.

1. The previous restaurateurs.
2. The current restaurateurs, diminishing quality and service of Mugg and Bean, Cattle Barron and Wimpy.
3. The Selati Restaurant in Skukuza – once a nice historic place to have a meal, now closed for umpteen years.
4. Recent restaurant staff strikes at Letaba, Satara and Pretoriuskop.
5. The failings of maintaining the required standards of service and maintenance at Tshokwane, Afsaal and Nkuhlu.
6. The Shishangane Concession went bankrupt and are now taken over by the Bond Hotel Group.
7. The Singita Concession which is supposed to be one of the KNP flagship concessions had to renegotiate their contract with SANParks due financial reasons.
8. SANParks seem to have no control or imagine they have responsibility over privatized institutions.'

GS: 'Considering all the above there is sufficient reason to be concerned about the SANParks Commercialization plans. There is sufficient reason to object to many of the commercialization plans. I request that the minutes of this meeting be distributed in draft form to the attendees for scrutiny, they can

<p>then be commented on within a reasonable time frame and returned. I request that before the final BAR is sent to the DEA, a draft be distributed to the I&amp;As for scrutiny, my reason for requesting this is to ensure that there are no misunderstandings or ambiguities.</p> <p>GS: 'I understand what you are saying but the regulations also do not forbid this, you may prevent much hardships and delays in doing so. I insist that a draft copy of the final BAR be forwarded to at least these attendees for scrutiny and comments within a reasonable time frame.'</p> <p>GS: 'When can we expect the minutes of this and the Mopani Conference Centre meeting?'</p> <p>GS: 'Provided the matters raised by me are satisfactorily addressed with emphasis on the management of the developments, security including, no poaching, no speeding, no road kills no criminality, maintenance of high standards of service and up-keep, as well as adequate control, I have no objections to this development.'</p>	<p>TS: 'This is not provided for in the regulations. However, I will consult with DEA to provide guidance.'</p>
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Meeting adjourned at 16:30.