

Minutes of focus group meeting with NRNP management

Date: 5 March 2025

Place: Nkasa Rupara National Park Head Office

Attending

Nash Muwanei, Chief Warden of NRNP

NRNP team: Jackson Hamutenya, Johannes Kambuli, Eveline Iikondja, Mate Sauzuo

Louis Nortjé (proponent)

Henriette Potgieter (EAP)

The EAP explained that she was not employed by the proponent and that all comments and concerns would be recorded and presented as part of the scoping report. She asked whether everyone present had perused the BID (yes) and whether clarifications were required (no).

Comments and questions from the NRNP staff:

1. Airplanes landing and taking off, and planes flying low over the park are noisy and will disturb the wildlife.
2. Construction staff can interfere with our work or put themselves in danger if they walk around the Park. They can also disturb the wildlife with their vehicles and machinery.
3. If there is a flood it can damage or destroy the airstrip.
4. If we get sick or injured, will we be allowed to use the airstrip?
5. We support the positive side of this airstrip in the Park, specifically that there will be more tourists, that there will be more people looking out for poachers, and for medical evacuations.

Replies:

1. Planes will be forbidden to fly over NRNP except during landing and take-off.
2. Construction employees will be restricted to the fenced staff village and the airstrip site. The stipulations in the EMP that govern the movement and behaviour of contractors will be incorporated in the contract between the proponent and all contractors.
3. Construction work and heavy vehicle movement will take place during daylight only.
4. The location of the airstrip is slightly elevated and outside the normal floodwater patterns.
5. Pilots approaching the airstrip are an extra pair of eyes on remote areas of the park and this has proven to be a deterrent for poachers in other regions.
6. Medical evacuations will be allowed, and the proponent is willing to assist wherever possible.