

SHAMWARI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE'S OBJECTION TO THE ALBANY WIND ENERGY FACILITY

We are commenting on the Albany Wind Energy Facility, DEFF Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1131 as a concerned landowner, protected area manager and nature and wildlife tourism operator and member of the larger Indalo Protected Environment which has experienced impacts from wind energy development directly and indirectly.

Indalo is working to expand through further amalgamation of southern, central and northern nodes into large agglomerations of private reserves (>50 000Ha) in central area, and public private partnerships with Addo National Park and Great Fish Provincial Reserves in the south and north respectively with common traversing agreements and unified conservation management.

The environmental and economic benefits of this prospect are considerable, as larger consolidated areas will lead to improved marketability of the Eastern Cape as a safari destination, making it comparable to Kruger, Sabi Sands and Madikwe.

1. HISTORY / BACKGROUND

Shamwari private Game Reserve (SPGR) has been operating as a game reserve from 1992 and was formally declared part of the Indalo Protected Environment in terms of National Environmental Management Protected Area Act on 31 July 2019 and currently has a total of 18 003ha under formal conservation protection.

SPGR forms part of Indalo Protected Environment that represents 9 private game reserves which collectively protects 76 000ha under formal protection with an additional hectare that is being added, pending proclamation. Further, Indalo is working to increase its membership to include a wider network of private game reserves in the Eastern Cape.

SPGR was formed by the amalgamation of land previously used for stock farming and substantial effort was made to remove human-made structures and to rehabilitate disturbed areas to return the landscape to a natural state.

Like the other Indalo reserves (and many others in South Africa and in Africa in general); SPGR focusses on nature and wildlife tourism that relies on the wilderness character of the reserve and surrounding area. SPGR is accordingly protected and managed so as to conserve its natural untrammelled state which forms the basis for visitors to experience the wilds with

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ecological, geological, and other features of scientific, and/ or historical value in a scenic setting.

Again, like other Indalo reserves SPGR is looking to expand its area under management and is working actively to link up with neighbouring Lalibela and Pumba reserves to form part of a larger proposed Addo to Great Fish corridor (also referred to as Albany Corridor). To this effect a formal protected area expansion strategy is under development by various stakeholders including Wilderness Foundation Africa, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, South African National Parks and Indalo Protected Environment.

SPGR has made a substantial contribution to the conservation of both black rhino and white rhino and protection of landscapes of ecological importance along with contributions to numerous other objectives as set out in the Indalo Protected Area Management Plan. The plan requires each reserve to secure the required financial resources to ensure achievement of the protected area management objectives.

These resources are derived from nature and wildlife tourism which is dependent on a natural environment largely free from the structures and signs of modern civilisation (often from which they come to get away).

2. TOURISM SERVICES

2.1 SCOPE

Lalibela offers an African safari experience, and an increasingly rare wilderness experience of being in the bush and experiencing unspoilt scenery characterised by a diversity of landscapes within which to appreciate wildlife and unique vegetation of different biomes.

We offer accommodation in eight lodges each in a scenic setting with game drives and views on upland plains, ravines, over valleys, into kloofs, and with vistas looking over high ground and more distant mountains.

Lodges have been sited to offer a scenic location with vistas devoid of intrusion by human-made structures and other disturbance. We have taken great effort to use natural materials sourced from the site in the lodge construction and to offer guest a glimpse of a part of South Africa's unspoilt beauty.

The accommodation is as follows:

Long Lee Manor	17 Luxury Rooms	38 Beds
	1 x 2 bedroom suite	

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Sindile Tented Camp	9 Luxury Tents	18 Beds
Eagles Crag Lodge	9 Suites	18 Beds
Bayethe Tented Camp	12 Luxury Tents	24 Beds
Riverdene Lodge	9 Suites	18 Beds
Lobengula Lodge	6 Suites	12 Beds
Sarili Lodge	Exclusive Use	10 Beds
Explora Camp	3 Tents	6 Beds

As of beginning 2020 SPGR employed 455 staff of the following employment profile:

African	295
Coloured	73
Indian	2
White	83
Foreign	2
Male	215
Female	240

2.2 IMPACT OF WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT

An important component of an African safari is being in the bush and experiencing the wilderness and the absence of man-made structures such as buildings, telephone lines, electricity pylons, etc.

Wind turbines of the Albany Wind Energy Facility will impact Kwandwe Private Game Reserve as one of the Indalo Protected Environment reserves directly. The facility will further significantly impact the broader vision for the region in terms of protected area expansion

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indirectly. The pulsing aviation warning lights which would dominate a part of the landscape at night would be visible from portions of SPGR thereby impacting our business.

Wind energy development will locally sterilise biodiversity stewardship based protected area expansion and otherwise degrade scenic aspects of land to the extent that potential for inclusion in protected area expansion planning will be substantially curtailed.

3 OBJECTION

Although SPGR and Indalo Protected Environment as a whole, strongly supports all sustainable renewable energy development, we do object to any development that will prevent the greater Indalo Protected Environment to take its rightful place as a world class African nature and wildlife destination and curtail or intrude potential protected area expansion through partnership with Addo and Great Fish Provincial reserves.

Yours Sincerely



Joe Cloete

CEO: Shamwari Private Game Reserve

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