

# WILDERNESS SAFARIS

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SERRA CAFEMA LODGE, STAFF VILLAGE AND AIRSTRIP

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Background

Damaraland Camp is situated at Farm Fonteine No. 717 Khorixas District in the Torra Conservancy in the Kunene region of Namibia. GPS Coordinates: S: -20.389936° E: 14.105806°

Torra Conservancy (Named after the red "torra" rocks predominant in the area) spans 3,522 square kilometres and consists of 1200 members from four ethnic groups namely Nama-Damara, Riemvasmakers, Herero, and the Owambo

In 1996, Wilderness Safaris joined the community's conservation efforts and co-established what is now considered the most successful community-based tourism venture in Namibia. In 1998, the success of Damaraland Camp helped the community to have their land proclaimed as the Torra Conservancy. It is now the leader of Community Wildlife Conservancies in the country and today, the Torra Conservancy is one of the most successful in all of Africa. It meets all its management costs and makes a profit which is then re-invested into community projects for their benefit. It is the first community conservancy which is able to sustain itself without donor funding.

Damaraland Camp is the successful result of a joint partnership between Wilderness Safaris and the Torra Conservancy, and has become an inspiration for communities and conservationists throughout Africa.

The conservancy and its natural resources are managed by a group elected to serve the interests of its members. A forum is provided through which services and developments can be channelled and integrated.



Figure 1: Torra conservancy and the location of Damaraland Camp.

## 1.2 Project description

### 1.2.1 Torra Conservancy Area

Wilderness Safaris Namibia (Pty) Ltd (registration Number 87/085) signed a Joint venture agreement in April 1996 entered into by and between Torra conservancy's the ward 11 residents trust (a community trust). Torra is in the south of the Kunene Region. Most of the conservancy lies in the Khorixas constituency, while the northern tip falls in the Sesfontein constituency. The 3,522 square kilometres that make up Torra form a significant part of a large swathe of land managed for conservation that extends from the Kunene River in the north to the Orange River in the south. The current Damaraland camp and staff village, as well as the airstrip fall within the Torra Conservancy.

Table 1: List of concession assets

Airstrip and support infrastructure	At Damaraland Camp in the Portion of the Torra conservancy Area
Existing guest & guide rooms and pathways	At Damaraland Camp in the Portion of the Torra conservancy Area
Existing main building and central guest facilities	At Damaraland Camp in the Portion of the Torra conservancy Area
Existing back of house infrastructure	At Damaraland Camp in the Portion of the Torra conservancy Area
Existing services (water reticulation, water heating, sewer, Solar and generator power supply, waste management etc.)	At Damaraland Camp in the Portion of the Torra conservancy Area
Existing game viewing tracks	At Damaraland Camp in the Portion of the Torra conservancy Area
Existing, renovated / new staff housing	At Damaraland Camp in the Portion of the Torra conservancy Area



Figure 2: Torra conservancy map

### 1.3 THE CAMP

Damaraland Camp consists of ten large en-suite, adobe-style thatched units (including a family unit) raised off the ground a main area, office and swimming pool. The camp has been built to be as eco-friendly as possible, thus minimising its environmental footprint. The eco-sandbags were used to build the walls of the camps buildings and other sustainably-sourced, biodegradable materials used include canvas fabric, reeds, gum poles and grass thatch. Natural lighting and convection along with good insulation were implemented in reducing the energy footprint.

Other measures to minimise environmental impacts include the use of solar water geysers, the establishment of a 'grey waste water' system and the eradication of alien plants.

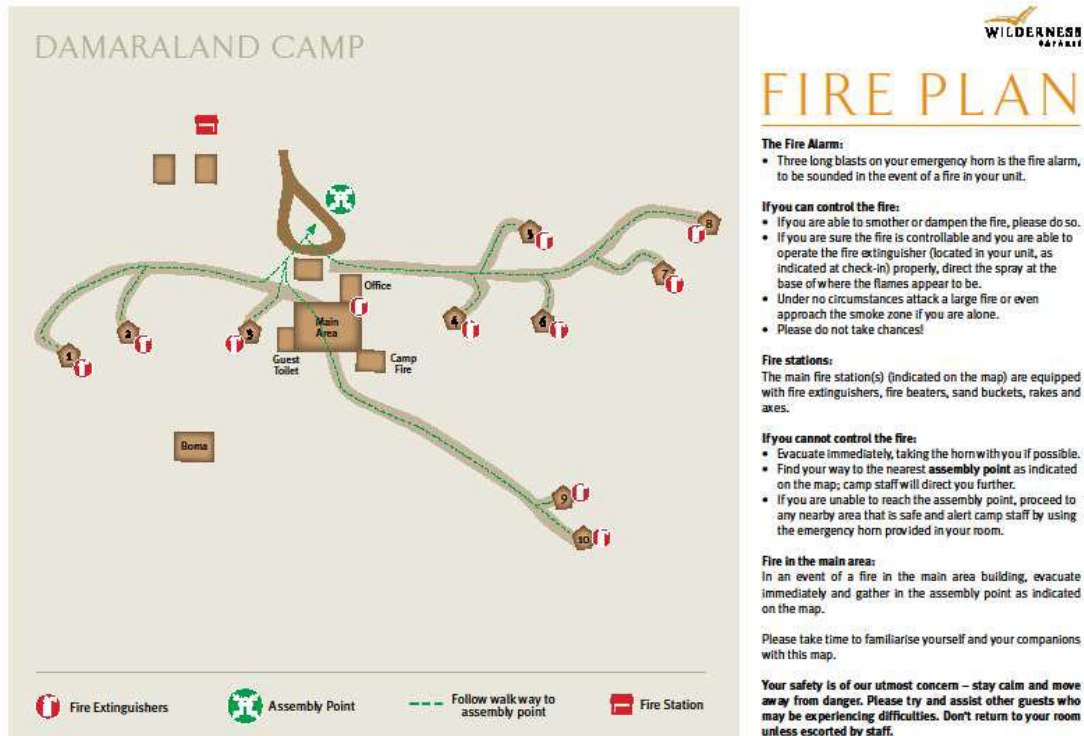


Figure 3: Layout of Damaraland Camp and fire plan

## 1.4 AIRSTRIP

Damaraland Airstrip is located south east, about 5.5 km from the main lodge. The specifications of the airstrip are, Length: 1400m; Elevation: 1620m; Co-ordinates: S: -20.432085° E: 14.127122° The infrastructure at the airstrip include a flush toilet, water tank and a fuel storage area building made of stone collected from the surrounding area.

NO turnarounds on the runway is permitted, aircrafts are only allowed to turnaround at each ends of the runway. The apron/parking is in the middle of the runway on the north-western side of the airstrip. The aircrafts are only permitted to park in this apron on the blocks for overnights as well as for drop-offs/pick-ups.



Figure 4: Damaraland Camp airstrip

### 1.5 STAFF VILLAGE

The staff village is located less than 1 Km north of the lodge. The infrastructure at the staff village includes, 19 junior staff units and 4 management units, 4 guide rooms, ablution blocks, laundry area, kitchen, dining area and an entertainment area.

Other lodge supporting infrastructure include, 2 Pilot/guide rooms, a kitchen, cold room, a dry food storage room, a parking area for safari vehicles and tourists, a workshop area, a storage room for various vehicle parts, a 9000 litre fuel tank, a battery bank room Solar plant , three 10000 ltr water tanks, a generator and an above ground sewage plant.





Figure 5: Fire plan and layout of the Damaraland Camp staff village



Figure 6: Google map of Damaraland camp and staff village