



LITTLE ONGAVA

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2021



Prepared for the renewal of Environmental Clearance by Ongava Game Reserve (Pty)
Ltd

Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Henriette Potgieter
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INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT

Renewal of Environmental Clearance: Little Ongava

PROPONENT

Ongava Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd

CONTACT Stuart Crawford
DESIGNATION General Manager: Operations, Ongava Game Reserve
TEL 081 – 286-1110
EMAIL sc@ongava.com
ADDRESS Private Bag 12041, Suite 10, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

Potgieter Consultancy CC

NAME Henriette Potgieter
TEL +264 - 81 - 312-1606
EMAIL hoenspotgieter@gmail.com
ADDRESS PO Box 11867, Klein Windhoek
EAP EAPAN member
QUALIFICATIONS MSc (Environmental Sciences)
 BSc Honours, B.Sc, BA

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Abbreviations

EC	Environmental Clearance
EMA	Environmental Management Act, 2007
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
Etosha	Etosha National Park
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
The lodge	Little Ongava
Ongava	Both the company (Ongava Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd, and the reserve (land)

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Little Ongava is located on Ongava Game Reserve, a 30,000 Ha private game reserve wholly owned by Ongava Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd. The company was registered in 1991 and owns the land, infrastructure and business, including four upmarket lodges on the reserve.

Little Ongava (the lodge) opened in 2003, before the Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007 came into effect. It received Environmental Clearance (EC) in December 2017. COVID, the closure of lodges and the resulting lack of income is the reason that this application for renewal was not submitted before December 2020.

1.2 Scope of this document

This document contains the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that is used by the management and staff of Little Ongava. It has been reviewed and updated to reflect the most current protocols and practices in use, but no significant changes were made to the infrastructure or operational protocols in the past three years.

The EMP consists of a description of the current infrastructure and activities of the lodge, followed by a table identifying potentially negative environmental impacts and suggesting management actions that aim to prevent or mitigate each potential impact.

It is submitted to MEFT in support of an application for renewal of EC.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Little Ongava is an ultra luxurious lodge for only six guests. It is located on the same dolomite ridge as Ongava Game Lodge (E in Figure 2 and A in Figure 3). It is marketed and managed as a stand-alone lodge, but some support functions are shared with Ongava Game Lodge: curio shop, staff accommodation, electricity and sewerage purification system.

2.1 Location

Ongava Game Reserve is located 90 km north of Outjo on the C38, with its main entrance 50 m from the Andersson Gate of Etosha National Park. The northern boundary of the reserve is formed by the Etosha border fence (Figure 1).

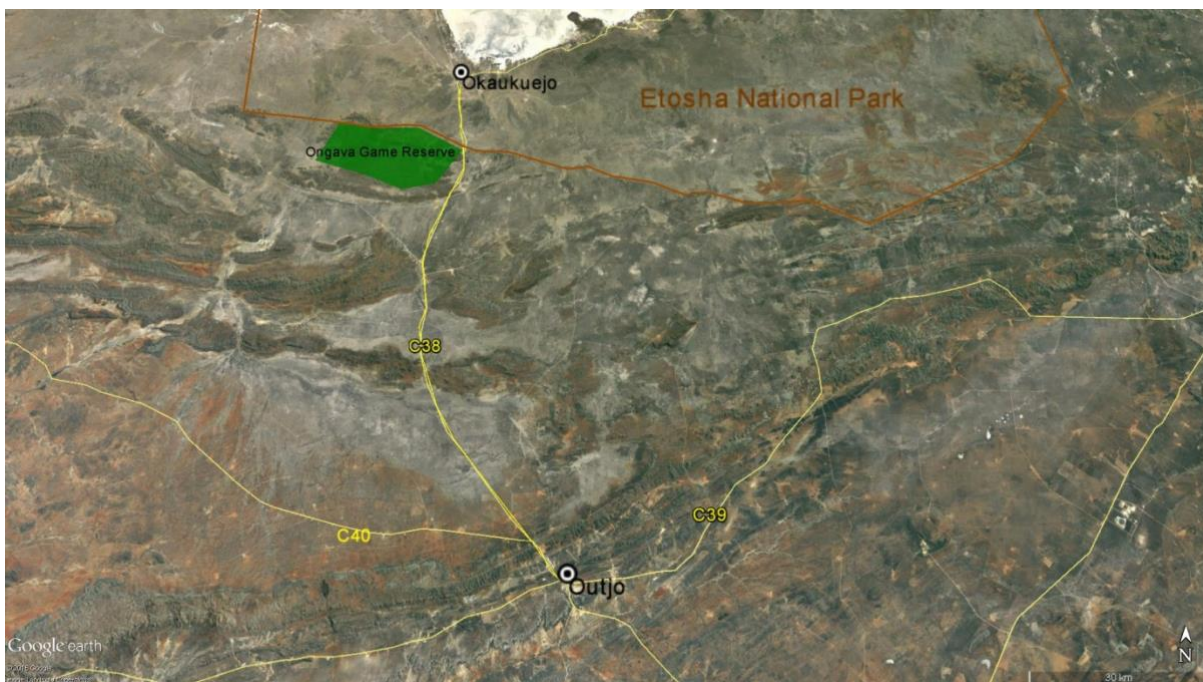


Figure 1. Location of Ongava Private Game Reserve (green area) near Andersson gate.

2.2 Wildlife

With Etosha forming the northern border and healthy populations of prey species present on the reserve, lions abound on Ongava and elephants occasionally break through the fence. All game species that occur naturally in the geographical area are present, including the endemic black-faced impala and predators such as leopard and jackal.

The conservation of rhinos is a core value of the business. Ongava provides an environment in which both white and black rhino populations breed successfully. Security is ensured by a professional anti-poaching unit with the sole duty of protecting fauna and flora on the reserve.

A game fence of 2.3 m high encloses Ongava Game Reserve along its entire border. The game fence is electrified with five strands on the southern, eastern and western sides. On the northern boundary (bordering Etosha), there are four strands of electrification on a cattle fence.

2.3 Activities

Game drives on the reserve and into Etosha are conducted in open game viewing vehicles, driven by qualified guides. Guided walks on the reserve are led by qualified, firearm-proficient guides.

2.4 Infrastructure



Figure 2. Aerial photo of the staff village/Little Ongava/Ongava Game Lodge complex.

The photo was taken from the north-western side of the hill. A: Staff village, B: Little Ongava turn-off, C: Ongava Game Lodge car park, D: Game Lodge main area, E: Little Ongava main area.



Figure 3. Location of Little Ongava relative to Ongava Game Lodge.

This photo was taken from the southern side of the hill. A: Little Ongava main area, B: guest units, C: Ongava Game Lodge main area, D: Ongava Game Lodge reception/curio shop, E: Ongava Game Lodge guest units.

2.4.1 Main area

The main area (A in Figure 3) is built of stone and thatch and contains a bar, dining/lounge area and guest toilet (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Little Ongava main area.

2.4.2 Back of house

The kitchen is detached from the main area and located directly behind it. It has a walk-in fridge/freezer and two store rooms. Other facilities: Office, laundry, housekeeping store room and maintenance store room.

The back of house facilities are housed in two structures: one is a brick building with thatched roof and the other is a stone building with corrugated iron roof.

2.4.3 Guest rooms

Guests are accommodated in three luxurious suites, each containing a lounge, bedroom, bathroom, swimming pool and outside lounge (Figure 5). The units are connected to the main area by a raised wooden walkway (Figure 6).

The regular presence of lions in this camp obliges extra safety measures. Guests are accompanied to and from their tents by a firearms-qualified guide.



Figure 5. Aerial view of a guest unit.



Figure 6. Raised wooden walkways connect the guest units and main area.

2.4.4 Staff accommodation

One guide unit with two beds and en suite bathroom is located on the ridge.

Staff members from are accommodated in a staff village shared by Little Ongava and Game Lodge (A in Figure 2). The two lodges have a combined total of 53 employees: 14 at Little Ongava and 39 at Game Lodge.

The staff village, 500 m from the lodge, has 12 double rooms for junior staff, sharing ablution facilities consisting of 4 showers and 4 toilets. There are 24 en suite single rooms for guides, chefs and senior staff. Other facilities include a kitchen and lounge area. All buildings in the staff village are of brick and mortar. One management house, brick and mortar with a corrugated iron roof, is in the staff village.

The staff village is surrounded by a 2.3 m high diamond mesh fence, necessitated by the regular presence of lions in the camp. A staff vehicle is allocated for the transportation of staff coming on and going off shift.

2.4.5 Support infrastructure

There is no workshop or maintenance facility at Little Ongava, since all maintenance is done at the Reserve headquarters at Tiervlei. Fuel is stored at Ongava Game Lodge. The majority of guests fly in and the few self-drive guests leave their cars at the Ongava Game Lodge parking area. Parking for the Little Ongava game drive vehicle is in front of the lodge on a concrete road.

2.5 Services

2.5.1 Water supply and reticulation

Water supply is from two boreholes, 17 m and 19 m deep. The main borehole is located approximately 150 m west of the lodge and the back-up borehole is approximately 50 m south of the main borehole, also west of the lodge. The boreholes are fitted with submersible low-volume pumps to ensure a stable water level, and pumping is alternated between the two.

2.5.2 Wastewater and sewage

Sewage from the main area and back of house is routed to a trickling plant at Ongava Game Lodge. The trickling plant processes the water, producing grey water which is fed into holding tanks. When the holding tanks are full, water is routed into a reed bed positioned 1 km north of the lodge. Sewage from the guest units and the staff village goes into a Clarus Fusion water purification plant, and the resulting processing container grey water is routed to the same reed bed.

Collected grey water from the trickling system is tested annually for fitness for animal consumption because it is used for road maintenance: a tanker disperses the water weekly on the Reserve gravel roads for compaction and dust control.

2.5.3 Solid waste

Solid waste is taken to a waste storage enclosure at Tiervlei. Recyclable waste is separated on site and taken to Windhoek. The remaining solid waste is collected weekly and taken to an official landfill in Outjo.

2.5.4 Energy

Electricity supply is main grid with a back-up generator, used only in case of grid outage. The generator is a six-cylinder engine in a self-contained metal unit, mounted on a cement floor. Geysers are a solar hybrid system, with a PV unit at each guest room plus a unit for the main area.

Staff village and management accommodation get electricity via main grid, including their geysers.

2.5.5 Roads and tracks

Ongava Reserve has a well-established road network, consisting of constructed gravel roads with camber and drainage ditches. The roads are graded by the Reserve maintenance team and they also repair and maintain speed bumps and culverts.

2.6 Design and landscaping

A sense of place is maintained by paint in muted natural colours, and the use of materials such as thatch and rocks sourced from disturbed road verges on the Reserve.

Staff are trained to actively preserve naturally occurring vegetation. Raised wooden walkways ensure that guests and staff walk in designated areas only.

3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

3.1 Objectives

The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has two main objectives:

- identify potential negative impacts associated with the project.
- propose measures to prevent or mitigate negative impacts.

Implementation actions aim to minimise negative impacts and enhance positive impacts that originate from the Project. The EMP is a living document that is updated as new information, policies, authority guidelines and technologies are developed and become available.

3.2 Tools

Little Ongava adhere to the following guidelines and procedures that govern their management actions:

- Guiding Protocol
- Ongava Management Plan
- HR guidelines
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Health & Safety annual audit

3.3 EMP Implementation

Management measures to mitigate each potential negative impact are proposed in an implementation plan in Table 2. The three headings of the implementation plan are discussed here.

Nature of impact

Possible impacts on a feature or function of the environment are identified. Description of potential risk sources (impacting activities) and the mechanisms through which an impact may occur are described.

Mitigation

Mitigation measures are proposed for each identified impact. These measures consist of specific management actions that need to be carried out in order to avoid, minimise or remedy negative impacts, together with adjustments to respond to unforeseen impacts.

Responsible person

Successful implementation of an EMP relies on defined roles and responsibilities. Ongava has allocated duties to individuals and teams, and they are responsible for carrying out the required management actions (

Table 1).

Table 1. Responsible persons and teams

Individuals and teams in charge of carrying out the management actions are given, with a description of their responsibilities.

Person/Team	Responsibilities
General Manager Operations (GO)	Overall responsibility for implementation of EMP. Support to the construction team and Ongava staff for implementation of environmental management measures.
Maintenance & Asset Manager (MM)	Day to day supervision of other role players. Maintenance of buildings, vehicles, machinery, sewage and waste systems at Little Ongava.
Lodge Management (LM)	Overall management of Little Ongava.
Human Resource Manager (HR)	Employment of staff
Farm Manager (FM)	Maintenance of reserve infrastructure and living assets
Guides	Transport of guests. Ensuring appropriate human-wildlife interactions.
Contractor	Construction

3.4 Construction phase

No construction is planned at Little Ongava in the foreseeable future.

3.5 Operations phase

Table 2. Implementation plan

NATURE OF IMPACT	MITIGATION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
Soil damage		
Compaction of and damage to soil	Only existing roads are used for driving. Making tracks next to a road is not allowed. Taking shortcuts is not allowed.	All
	New roads and tracks have to be authorised and are developed according to the road plan.	GO & MM
	No off-road driving.	All
	Vehicles may be parked only in designated parking areas.	LM
	Plains with sensitive, compactable soils should be avoided (vehicle damage to soil is irreversible).	Guides
Damage to roads and tracks	Low tyre pressure on all operational vehicles.	Guides, MM, FM
	Operational vehicles are 4-wheel drive and of standard width.	GO & MM
Soil erosion	Implement measures to disperse concentrated water flow and repair erosion at such locations.	FM
Contamination of soil by hydrocarbons	Oil pans are used in vehicle parking areas. Fuel dispensing takes place over impervious, bunded surfaces or drip trays.	GO & MM
	Vehicle servicing is done on impervious, bunded surfaces or over oil pans	GO & MM
	Used oil is stored in appropriate receptacles and despatched to appropriate waste facility.	GO & MM
	Fuel is stored in appropriate receptacles and on bunded surface.	GO & MM
	Fuel is dispensed on bunded surface	MM
Contamination of soil by sewage & waste water	Discussed under "Sewage and waste water"	
Disturbance of animals, their behaviour and habitats		
Impacts associated with human-wildlife interaction	Guests and employees are made aware that they are in a sensitive environment.	LM & Guides
	Guests and employees are made aware of the appropriate way to interact with wildlife.	LM & Guides
	Driving on Ongava Game Reserve is strictly regulated by permit system. Self-drive is allowed only between main gate and lodge.	LM & Guides
	Game drives and walking activities are always led by qualified guides.	LM & Guides
	Guides are trained in conservation and cultural/historical aspects relevant to the local area. Guide training includes appropriate protocols and behaviour guidelines for the activities offered by the lodge.	HR, LM & Guides
Protected species are disturbed or destroyed by operational activities.	Avoid sites with nests, burrows, dens, etc. of protected species.	GO & Guides

NATURE OF IMPACT	MITIGATION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
Poaching by staff or contractors	The greater area around the site is searched regularly for snares.	FM
	Foot traffic is virtually non-existent on Ongava Game Reserve due to a high concentration of free-roaming lions.	All
	Unauthorised driving on tracks is virtually non-existent: patrols by the anti-poaching unit, and the constant presence of farm management staff and guides on roads and tracks are effective control measures.	FM & Guides
Damage to animal habitats	No picking of plants, collection of firewood or any other damage-inducing activity is permitted.	All
	Employees are educated on the need to refrain from the destruction of plants and animals, as well as from indiscriminate defecation, waste disposal and pollution of soil and water resources.	LM
Disturbance of and damage to vegetation		
Protected species are affected by operational activities	No protected, rare or endangered plants may be disturbed, damaged or removed.	GO & Guides
Damage to plants and habitats	Driving on Ongava is strictly regulated by permit system. Self-drive allowed only between main gate and lodge. Unaccompanied walking is allowed only in lodge area, within electrified fence.	LM & Guides
	Game drives and walking activities are always led by qualified guides employed by the lodge.	LM & Guides
	No plants or other natural resources may be disturbed, violated, mutilated, destroyed or removed.	All
Firewood collection disturbs microhabitats	Fires are used only for ambience for guests, not for cooking or heating. Firewood is brought in from reputable, renewable resources, such as bush-clearing projects.	All
Spread of invasive vegetation	The lodge and surrounding area are kept free of alien and invasive vegetation.	FM
Hydrological impacts		
Disruption of surface water hydrology	No driving in seasonally inundated areas when they are flooded or moist. Drainage lines are entered and exited only at designated points.	FM & Guides
	Eroded roads and roads traversing wet areas are closed for vehicle traffic and alternative routes are used until such time as the areas are deemed suitable for traffic.	GO & FM
Contamination of surface and ground water	The use of biodegradable and eco-friendly guest amenities, soaps and detergents in kitchen and laundry should be enforced.	LM
	Oil pans are used in vehicle parking areas. Fuel dispensing takes place over impervious, bunded surfaces or drip trays.	LM & MM
	Vehicle servicing is done on impervious, bunded surfaces or over oil pans.	MM

NATURE OF IMPACT	MITIGATION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
	Used oil is stored in appropriate receptacles and despatched to an appropriate waste facility.	MM & FM
	Fuel is stored in appropriate receptacles and on an impermeable bunded surface.	MM
	Fuel is dispensed on an impermeable bunded surface.	LM
Water conservation measures	Water conservation is actively promoted among guests and staff. Guests are informed of water scarcity and encouraged to participate in water conservation.	LM
	Measure and record water use. Compare usage with targets.	LM
	Repair leaks in the water reticulation system within 24 hrs of detection.	LM & MM
Water saving devices	Dual-flush toilets with small capacity cisterns.	LM & MM
	Low-flow showers; bucket in shower to collect pre-warm water; garden irrigation only at night; reverse osmosis system for drinking water	LM & MM
Contamination of groundwater by sewage & waste water	Discussed under "Sewage and waste water"	
Air quality		
Air pollution caused by emissions	Burning of rubbish is limited to small amounts of packaging material.	MM
	Vehicles are serviced regularly and monitored for excessive exhaust emissions.	MM
	Generator is used only in case of grid outage.	LM & MM
Noise pollution		
Generator noise	Generator is housed in noise-limiting container and used only in case of grid outage.	LM & MM
Other equipment	Graders, diggers, tractors, road-building equipment, power tools are used during daylight hours only.	FM
Visual impact		
Negative visual impacts	Buildings and other structures are designed and located so as to maintain a sense of place.	All
	Motorised accessibility is limited to existing roads and tracks.	All
	Only subdued or directional lighting is used.	LM & MM
Solid Waste		
Prevention of pollution through proper waste management	Solid waste is collected weekly from the Reserve holding facility and transported to official landfill in Outjo.	MM
	Waste bins are provided at the point of source. All waste bins are covered and secured to be animal proof.	LM & MM
	Solid waste is stored in a bird- and animal proof holding cage at the lodge, then taken to the Reserve holding facility at Tiervlei.	LM & MM
	There is no burying or burning of waste on the Reserve, all waste is removed.	FM
	Used hydrocarbons are stored in sealed drums and despatched to an appropriate waste facility.	LM & MM

NATURE OF IMPACT	MITIGATION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
Sewage and waste water		
Contamination of soil, as well as surface and groundwater, due to sewage and waste water discharge	All sewage is restricted to a closed system that terminates at a water purification plant. Purified water is used for dust suppression on the main roads of the reserve.	LM & MM
Ecological impacts	Fat traps at kitchen outlets are cleaned and maintained regularly.	LM
	Purification system, septic tanks and evaporation pond are maintained.	MM
Unpleasant odours	Qualitative monitoring of odours.	All
	Should unpleasant odours be identified, the source of the odours is identified and repaired within 1 week of identification.	MM
Energy		
Excessive use of non-renewable sources of energy	Energy use (electricity, diesel, petrol, paraffin, gas) is metered and monitored. Readings are compared with target usage to ensure optimum efficiency.	LM
Energy saving measures	Generator is used only as back-up when main grid is off.	LM
	Solar geysers provide hot water.	MM
	Cooking on gas; laundry washed in cold water; fridges and freezers are energy-efficient, insulated and sealed.	LM
	Energy-efficient light bulbs are used throughout the lodge.	LM
Health and safety		
Labour policies	The company is in compliance with all national legislation and regulations governing workplace equity and diversity.	GO & HR
Staff and guest health and safety	The company is in compliance with all national legislation and regulations governing health and safety measures.	GO & LM
	Protective clothing, as appropriate to operations, is provided to employees.	LM
	Adequate first aid kits are available and regularly maintained. A suitable number of employees is trained in first aid.	LM
	On-site staff housing is large enough, secure, clean, and provided with water, sanitation and energy.	LM & MM
	Employees and guests are made aware of procedures to follow in the event of an emergency, e.g. which person to contact, how to contact him/her during the night; evacuation routes.	LM
	Employees responsible for guest transport have valid licences and public driving permits.	LM
Fire	All precautions are taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of fires. Employees are aware of the necessary precautions.	LM
	Fire fighting equipment is available, regularly maintained, and employees are trained in fire safety.	LM
	Gas canisters are stored in Bureau of Standards approved structures.	LM

NATURE OF IMPACT	MITIGATION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
	Fire extinguishers are strategically located throughout the developed area.	LM

3.6 Closure & decommissioning phase

There is no intention to cease operations or decommission Little Ongava in the foreseeable future. Since tourism has an indefinite projected lifespan, and since the land, immovable assets and business are privately owned and the owners have a vested interest in the success of the operation, there is currently no decommissioning plan.

Should closure and decommissioning of any of the Ongava assets be required, an extensive decommissioning plan will be drawn up and meticulously followed according to the highest standards of environmental management best practices. The priority for closure will be to return the land as closely as possible to the pre-construction condition. Measures will be taken to prevent soil erosion and provide protection so that plants can re-colonise. A site assessment will be carried out after closure to ensure that no structures remain and that site rehabilitation has been fully achieved.

Rehabilitation and Closure objectives

There are three primary closure objectives.

1. Protect public health and safety, as well as health and safety of fauna and flora.
2. Alleviate or eliminate environmental damage.
3. Return the site to its original, pre-development condition.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Compliance with the EMP is monitored regularly. Key aspects to monitor are given in Table 3 but the lodge manager and owner may add to these and may delegate specific tasks as required by the lodge operations.

Table 3. Mitigation components to be monitored.

Headings give the measurable unit that is monitored, the frequency of monitoring, and the person responsible.

To be monitored	Measurable	Frequency	Person
Water consumption	Usage in litres per total bednight *	Monthly	LM
Groundwater quality	Fitness for human consumption	Annually	MM
Sewerage system	Septic tanks	Monthly	MM
Sewerage pipes	Leaks	Monthly	MM
Grey water pipes	Leaks	Monthly	MM
Fat traps	Functioning equipment, clean filter	Weekly	LM, MM
Water installations	Functioning of purification equipment	Weekly	LM, MM
Trickle filter plant	Functioning equipment	Weekly	LM, MM
Solid waste	Secure storage of solid waste	Daily	LM
Solid waste	Removal of waste from site and secure storage of waste	Daily, weekly	LM, MM
Soak-aways	Drainage	Weekly	MM
Tracks & roads	Erosion	Weekly	FM
Wildlife	Wildlife sightings	Every game drive	Guides
Wildlife	Species of special interest	On-going	LM, guides
Grid electricity	Nampower records: usage per total bednight *	Monthly	LM
Diesel	Records at source tanks and generator	Daily. Monthly summary	LM
Gas	Usage	Monthly	LM
Vehicles	Oil leaks, emissions, tyres	Daily	Guides, MM

* Total bednights include every person using lodge resources: guests, staff, managers, scientists, contractors

4.1 Water monitoring

The aim of the water monitoring programme is to assess the consumption and impact of water use on groundwater quality and availability. The Maintenance and Asset Manager carries out the monitoring programme.

Groundwater

- Groundwater usage is metered and recorded monthly in order to monitor and manage water consumption.
- Groundwater quality is monitored at point of use (lodge kitchen) and tested annually for mineral and bacterial content to ensure that it is fit for human consumption (Test: *Evaluation of drinking water for human consumption, DWA, Namibia, July 1991*).

4.2 Energy monitoring

Electricity: grid source is monitored monthly

PV energy is used for hot water in a geyser hybrid system

Gas: monitored monthly

Diesel: recorded daily and monthly summaries are made

Firewood: only dead wood is collected and sourced from de-bushing operations. Fires are used only for ambience in the evenings and no cooking or heating is done with fire, either in the lodge or in the staff village.

4.3 Environmental Performance Assessment

Environmental auditing is aimed at ensuring continual improvement in environmental performance. The lodge keeps records of environmental monitoring data, which is included in an annual report to the Board of Ongava. The annual report contains details of all changes and new projects. Monthly summaries of data are used to assess the level of compliance with environmental legislative requirements and the commitments made in the EMP.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

5.1 Sewage or waste water spills

Should leaks in the sewerage or waste water system be detected, the following actions will be taken:

- The spillage will be contained and the source turned off if possible. Depending on the amount of spillage, it will be remediated in situ or in the case of a large spillage that is contained, it will be removed.
- The reason for the spillage will be rectified.

5.2 Hydrocarbon or chemical Spills

The objective is to contain and remediate spillages of chemicals such as pool cleaners and housekeeping products.

- Contact management in the event of a spill.
- The spillage is contained and the source turned off if possible.
- Management organises a team to assist with cleaning.
- Demarcate the spilled area where practicable.
- Move the spill kits to the area.
- Scoop up the spilled substance along with contaminated soil or any absorbent material using the spill kit shovel. Place the scooped up substance into plastic bags.
- The waste bags should be marked as hazardous waste and disposed of as hazardous waste.
- The leakage should be stopped and reason for spill rectified.

6 CONCLUSION

This Environmental Management Plan describes the management measures that are implemented with the aim of preventing or mitigating negative environmental impacts and enhancing positive impacts that the lodge activities may have. It is a legal document that commits Ongava Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd to comply with all the management measures, monitoring programmes and other plans as presented in this document.

The EMP is intended as a practical, working protocol to be used in accordance with the principles of adaptive management. As new information, technologies and methods become available, the management measures set out in this document may be adjusted to conform with current best practice guidelines, while staying within the economic means of the business.

There has been no significant change to the infrastructure or procedures and no new or altered negative impacts on the environment have been identified since EC was granted to Little Ongava in December 2017.