

REQUEST for the RENEWAL of the EXISTING
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

For ZOVU ELEPHANT LODGE, ZAMBEZI REGION (ZEL)

Relevant official documents, Background Information & Updated EMP



**Figure 1: View from the restaurant deck at Zovu Elephant Lodge
(photo courtesy P Visagie)**

APP reference number issued by the EC office of MEFT *APP 240903-004644*

PROPONENT

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ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

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Dr. Ekkehard Klingelhoefter Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

SECTION 1

Instructions, Locality & Official Documents

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Zovu Elephant Lodge was established in 2008 by the late Mr. Gert and Mrs. Alta Visagie on the northern banks of the Chobe River (Namibia), at Kasika Village. Currently the sole owner of ZEL is Mr. Peter Visagie. He requested Dr Ekkehard Klingelhoef, the appointed EAP, to update the current EMP in force and to request the EC office of MEFT for a renewal of the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), which has elapsed in 2021 during the COVID 19 epidemic.

Due to the COVID 19 epidemic the lodge was closed and only started operating again as of 1st March 2024. During the closure major renovations and maintenance took place on the existing infrastructure and adopting new methods in minimizing waste. These included:

- Extensive maintenance of buildings
- Internal modernization of the five guest units
- Upgrade of the “Waste Management Protocols”
- De-cluttering of the premises

Zovu Elephant Lodge, which is situated on the north bank of the Chobe River, offers five units with two rooms each, a restaurant, bar and a swimming pool. Visitors can often observe large herds of elephant and buffalo from the restaurant deck (**Fig 1**). The lodge offers boat cruises up the Chobe River, sundowner cruises, and game excursions on land including day trips to Victoria Falls.

As per the instructions of the EC office of MEFT, the EMP of 2018 is to be updated including all relevant official documentation as per Documents 1-5. The information provided in this report, are based on two visits to ZEL including extensive reading conducted on possible impacts a lodge along a river can pose to the environment and discussions held in Katima Mulilo with the Proponent. The objective of the EMP, was to re-emphasize that the key action verbs applicable at every lodge operating in Namibia, should focus on: **to minimize, to reuse, to recycle**. In addition the EAP was guided by:

- observations made at the lodge
- the EMP of October 2018
- the Waste Management Policy of 2018 (MEFT)
- the Guide to the EMP Act No 7 of 2007 of 2008

1.2 LOCALITY

Zovu Elephant Lodge is situated on the northern bank of the Chobe River (**Fig. 2**), next to Kasika Village on a 3 ha plot of which only 1ha is utilized for the tourism operation. Access to the lodge in the wet season (January to June) is only possible through Kasane via Botswana or by boat from Ngoma Bridge. The Chobe floodplains during this period are flooded and can only be accessed during the 6 months of July to December.

Distance from Katima Mulilo via the Chobe Floodplains to Zovu Elephant Lodge is 115km and by tar road to Kasane (Botswana) 120km. The remaining 3 km from Kasane immigration is via boat.



Figure 2: Satellite image indicating location of Zovu Elephant Lodge (**Red Block**) a 3ha plot on the northern bank of the Chobe River at Kasika Village on its north/west boundary.

CO-ORDINATES of ZOVU ELEPHANT LODGE

- 17.808606 Latitude South and
- 25.123305 Longitude East