

Media Release- 17/04/2001

Sanparks Makes Six Additional Lodge Sites Available For Concessions To Private Operators

Following on from the successful tendering of seven concession sites last year, a further six sites are currently on offer: in Kruger, Cape Peninsula and Kgalagadi Transfrontier Parks. The process will follow the same approach adopted previously, with the granting of 20-year concessions to build, own and operate eco-tourism facilities within the National Parks.

"This year, we are going out with four sites which, for one reason or another, were not concessioned last year, plus two very exciting sites in the Cape Peninsula National Park," says Peter Fearnhead, the SANParks Head of Commercial Development.

"Koeel Bay is a coastal site, along the Chapman's Peak Drive just outside of Hout Bay, with stunning views of the Sentinel and beyond. It would make a unique small lodge, perhaps as an annex to an established hotel or eco-tourism facility. On the other hand, the Roundhouse Precinct is a set of historically significant buildings within The Glen, in Camps Bay, which provides an excellent opportunity to develop an integrated restaurant and small accommodation facility."

In addition to these sites, SANParks is also seeking investors to develop two greenfield sites in Kruger Park, both of which include large tracts of traversing land; another greenfield site within the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park; and the Brandwag Hotel facility in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park. This latter concession is an existing 164-bed conventional hotel facility, which will be outsourced to a qualified hotel operator as a going concern. This broad range of opportunities is expected to attract a large and diverse field of potential bidders. "Basically, there's something for everyone," says Fearnhead.

At the same time, work is continuing on the outsourcing of SANParks' network of shops and restaurants throughout the Parks. The response so far has been encouraging, with both large chains and small operators expressing interest in taking over one or more restaurant and/or retail units.

Both sets of transactions, restaurants/shops and lodge concessions, are being run simultaneously and will culminate in an open and transparent tender process expected at the end of June.

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