



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES: MTPA PROTECTED AREAS

INTRODUCTION

- The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) is the appointed Management Authority for the provincial nature reserves under the Mpumalanga Government.
- One of the key objectives of the agency is to ensure the sustainable development of the nature reserves under its jurisdiction.
- Seven of the provincial nature reserves, by virtue of their natural assets, size and location offer viable opportunities for the development of tourism enterprises, namely:-
 - **The Blyde River Canyon which includes Mariepskop, Songimvelo Nature Reserve, Manyeleti Nature Reserve, Andover Nature Reserve, Sterkspruit Nature, Mdala and Mkhombo Dam Nature Reserves.**
- Information presented in this Prospectus provides an overview of these particular nature reserves and the possible investment opportunities to unlock development and tourism potential.
- The MTPA is looking for potential investors who may be interested in investing in the nature reserves.

BLYDE RIVER CANYON NATURE RESERVE



The Blyde River Canyon is a 26km long canyon located in Mpumalanga, South Africa. It is one of the largest and deepest green canyons in the world.

Blyde River Canyon Cable Car Project



Mpumalanga is inviting interested investment partners to build the Blyde River Canyon Cable Car, which will transport tourists from the top of the Blyde River Canyon to the peninsula below in the middle of the Blyde Lake. The cable car will provide an exciting experience and spectacular views over and around the Blyde Canyon to generate income for the Province. **This unique investment, estimated at R300 million, will be a major international tourist attraction and is envisaged to rival similar projects in the world.**

PIPELINE OF CATALYTIC PROJECTS AT BLYDE RIVER CANYON NATURE RESERVE

The entity has a pipeline of catalytic projects, for which feasibility studies and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) were completed. The next step is to seek approval of "TAII A" from the National Treasury and commence with procurement process to source private investors.

Blyde River Canyon Cableway Project - the Blyde River Canyon is the largest and deepest green canyon in the world and offers a spectacular opportunity to build a Cableway transporting tourists from the top of the Canyon to the peninsula below. Feasibility studies and EIA completed. **PPP/ JV / BOT - ZAR 300 million.**

Bourke's Luck Potholes Hotel - the natural water wonder at Bourke's Luck Potholes is a major tourism attraction in the Mpumalanga Lowveld. The hotel will comprise of a modern 4-star 80 beds hotel, which is envisaged to use and incorporate local materials where possible. Whilst the accommodation will be pitched at 4-star, the facility would aim at providing a 5-star service. The facility would include public areas and rooms orientated down the canyon with views. Feasibility studies and EIA completed. **PPP/ JV / BOT - ZAR 284 million.**

Blyde Hydropower station- The power station's anticipated output is 11,8 GWh per year. A tariff of R0.88kWh was assumed for appraisal purposes. The returns for the private sector are attractive. **PPP/ JV / BOT - ZAR 63 million**

BOURKE'S LUCK POTHOLES



OTHER INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT BLYDE RIVER CANYON NATURE RESERVE

Blyde River Canyon **Boat Cruise operator**- the MTPA is looking for two investors to operate and manage a Boat Cruise and other amenities such as a Kiosk at the beautiful Swadini Dam in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve. **PPP/ JV - ZAR 2 million.**

Blyde River Canyon **Floating Restaurant operator**- the MTPA is looking for an investor to design, operate and manage a 24 seater Floating Restaurant at Swadini Dam in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve. **PPP/ JV - ZAR 3 million.**

Blyde River Canyon **Paradise Camp operator** - the MTPA is looking for an investor to upgrade, operate and manage the Paradise Camp which can offer up to 24 beds, the camp is close to the Gods Window in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve. **PPP/ JV / BOT - ZAR 20 million.**

Blyde River Canyon **Clearstream and Waterval 3day Hiking Trail operator** - the MTPA is looking for an operator to operate and manage the 3day hiking trail with two rustic accommodation that can offer up to 30 beds. The trail is close to the Gods Window and Paradise Camp in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve. The Blyde Canyon is the largest and deepest green canyon in the world. **PPP/ JV - ZAR 1 million.**

Blyde Hydro Power Station: tourism sector

- Among the investment opportunities identified by the MTPA is the proposed development of the Hydropower Station project. Of the installed capacity of 51 309MW, hydroelectric contributes 661MW or 1,3%. Approximately 5 100MW of additional hydropower can be exploited from rural and urban hydropower resources. Other renewable technologies include on-shore wind, solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, biogas, biomass and landfill gas.
- The implementation of a Hydro-Electric Power Station at the dam wall structure of the Blyderivierpoort Dam will be commercially viable, on condition that a successful Power Purchase Agreement can be secured that is based on the renewable energy feed-in tariffs (REFIT) tariff structure.

The project entails establishment of a hydro-power station to generate renewable energy.

The project takes advantage of the existing Blyde River dam which is suitable for such a power station.

Generated electricity power shall enhance local economic development and biodiversity conservation while contributing to climate change mitigation.

The project will also benefit land claimants and neighbouring communities to Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve.



MARIEPSKOP



Mariepskop Mountain is one of the highest peak in the northern Drakensberg, and the highest point of the Blyde River Canyon. It stands tall on the eastern side of the Drakensberg Escarpment, its back to the [Blyde River Canyon](#). Ascend the mountain and you will stand 1 945 metres above sea level, the Indian Ocean and even Maputo visible on a cloudless day. To reach the top there is a steep pass between [Klaserie](#) and the ridge of the [Drakensberg](#).

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MARIEPSKOP

One of the most scenic roads you can take in the Hoedspruit Region. Mariepskop Mountain, at 1,945 metres above sea level is one of the highest peaks in the northern Drakensberg and the highest point of the Blyde River Canyon.

The route is very scenic indeed, as it offers you the experience of driving through a tropical rain forest. You may come across various plains game and leopard on the way up. The mountain peak is very rocky but it boasts a wide variety of plant species.

Future plans involve:

- Upgrade of the old Military Base into a hotel, the hotel can take more than 100 people
- Investment in, and design of a magnified glass restaurant that can take more than 100 people

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NB: Feasibility studies and EIA studies have not yet been conducted on the investment opportunities

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MARIEPSKOP

Future plans involve:

- Upgrade of Madibabakone Resort Node (Welgevonden), the resort can take more than 200 people
- Upgrade of two chalets that can accommodate 6 patrons each
- Upgrade of a guesthouse that can take up to 10 people



Feasibility studies and EIA studies have not yet been conducted on the investment opportunities

BARBERTON MAKHONJWA MOUNTAIN WORLD HERITAGE SITE (BMM-WHS)

The Barberton Makhonjwa Mountain Land is the first [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) in the province. [Mpumalanga](#), which shares borders with [Gauteng](#) and [Limpopo](#), has always been one of South Africa's prettiest provinces in terms of dramatic landscapes. And these mountains are just one more dazzling gem in this treasure chest.



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT BMM-WHS

The entity looks forward to the development of the BMM-WHS, and it being opened for commercial opportunities. A business case will be developed to further identify flagship projects and to package them for investment promotion.

The Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains World Heritage Site (BMM-WHS) Investment opportunities:

- Proposed development of a **144 beds hotel** at the high intensity leisure site with activities such as Restaurants, shops, education centres, picnicking and braais,
- Development of a **Lodge with a maximum of 48 beds** at the low intensity leisure site with amenities such as Restaurants, shops, education centres, picnicking and braais
- A development of a **Resort with a maximum of 250 beds** at the peripheral tourism development area with amenities such as Swimming pools, sport facilities, Theme park, Restaurants, shops, education centres, picnicking and braais, etc.

Feasibility studies and EIA studies have not yet been conducted on the investment opportunities.

STERKSPRUIT NATURE RESERVE



Sterkspruit Nature Reserve lies on the Sterkspruit River, which is stocked with rainbow trout, surrounded by the glorious combination of highveld grassland, wooded stream banks, forested kloofs and quartz cliffs.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT STERKSPRUIT NATURE RESERVE

CANTILEVER WALKWAY

The cantilever sky walkway is to be a focal feature of the reserve that people can look forward to, along the trail.

It allows for an unnatural and exciting perspective of the view, adding depth to the use of the natural environment.

We see the cantilever walkway through the lens of incremental development, meaning the structure does not have to be constructed in the foundation phases, but rather as time goes.

PPP/ JV / BOT - estimated cost ZAR 100 million.

Feasibility studies and EIA studies have not yet been conducted on the investment opportunities.



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ANDOVER NATURE RESERVE



Andover Nature Reserve is an unspoiled Nature Reserve, situated amidst the Kruger National Park and Sabi Sands.

The 7 000 hectares reserve is home **to zebra, giraffe, kudu, bushbuck**, and other small antelope. The highlight though is the occasional sighting of rhino, buffalo and lion - they tend to visit from neighboring nature reserve, Sandringham, spend a few days within Andover and then return to their side of the fence.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ANDOVER NATURE RESERVE

Andover is considered an excellent example of a “**truly wild**” and undeveloped area that gains from its proximity to the Kruger as migratory [wildlife](#) follow routes they have followed for years, ignoring manmade boundaries.

The reserve does not cater for huge numbers of visitors. It has four Rondavels ideal for couples, a guesthouse that accommodates four people and a caravan park for eight people – making it an attractive option for those who enjoy privacy and solitude.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ANDOVER NATURE RESERVE

The aim of the Tented Bush Camp is to give patrons a an experience of accommodation right inside the bush with a game viewing sight every morning.

PPP/ JV / BOT are encouraged - estimated cost ZAR 20 million.

Feasibility studies and EIA studies have not yet been conducted on the investment opportunities.



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ANDOVER NATURE RESERVE

- **DAY VISITORS' AREA - PICNIC SITE.**
- An opportunity to develop a new day visitors' facility at Andover Nature Reserve.
- A new business opportunity in the form of concession where the service provider would Built Operate, Maintain and Transfer (BOMT).
- The aim is to develop a swimming pool, braai area, ablution block with change rooms and a lapa.

- **DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CHALETS.** Development of 5 new chalets

- **DEVELOPMENT OF CAMPING SITE – at the Hippo dam.** A camping site can be developed at the Hippo Dam site.

MDALA AND MKHOMBO NATURE RESERVES



Mdala Nature Reserve is situated in the Mpumalanga Province, approximately 65 km north of Bronkhorstspuit. It covers approximately 8 600 ha. The reserve 's mountains and plains are covered with savannah vegetation and game, which creates an exciting bush veld atmosphere. It is situated in a summer rainfall area with warm to very hot summer and moderate winter. Rainfall mainly occurs in the period from November to March.

Mkhombo Nature Reserve. The terrain of the reserve varies from relatively flat plateaus on the higher lying areas, through steep cliffs and a variety of slope types to some valleys and relatively flat-to-flat valley bottoms. The weather condition is a summer rainfall area with warm to very hot summer and moderate winter.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MDALA AND MKHOMBO NATURE RESERVES

The **Mkhombo and Mdala** Nature Reserves, which are neighbouring nature reserves, collectively have the potential to appeal to, and attract a wide range of tourists, and offer diverse tourism products and experiences,

Business Opportunities

- Outsourcing and upgrade of Mkhohlwane lodge,
- Construction of a Conference Centre at Zandspruit area.
- Upgrading of the Mdala education centre to a multi - purpose centre
- Upgrade of four guest houses to include en-suites

PPP/ JV / BOT encouraged- estimated cost ZAR 100 million.

Feasibility studies and EIA studies have not yet been conducted on the investment opportunities