

**The Coordinator, Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park Management Committee**

**Private Bag 13378 – Windhoek – Namibia**

**Tel: +264 61 285 7000 – Fax: +264 88 651 0096 – E-Mail:** [**fsnyders@nwr.com.na**](mailto:fsnyders@nwr.com.na)

18 March 2014

**The Chairperson**

**Joint Management Board: ARTP**

Dear Gentleman

**REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THE PROPOSED CANOE OPERATIONS (Extension 2)**

1. The Joint Management Board (JMB) of the Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP) has approved the Canoe Trail project.
2. **FUNDING**
   1. The GIZ has provided funding to the value of Euro 50 000.
   2. The funding was agreed upon after the approval of our Project Budget to the GIZ.
3. **BUDGET**
   1. The original budget presented and approved by the JMB was submitted as such:

Initial Investment capital

* Canoes R 163 000.00
* Trailer R 35 000.00
* Safety equipment R 12 300.00
* Catering equipment R 44 500.00
* Communication R 11 700.00
* Service provider ( EMP) R 25 000.00
* Guides training R 32 800.00
* Marketing (Pre – launch) R 75 000.00
* Canvas ( Tents) R 98 000.00

**TOTAL CAPEX R 497,300.00**

* 1. The current approved GIZ funded budget is as follows: (see attached)
     1. The GIZ will, as indicated on the attached budget (ARTP Canoe Trails Expense Breakdown), facilitate the procurement of the Canoe’s, trailers and catering equipment themselves.
     2. NWR will, on behalf of the ARTP PMC / JMB facilitate the procurement of the other line-items budgeted for.

1. **NAME CHANGE**
   1. Through *Market Research*, and *Testing* of various potential watercrafts, the ARTP PMC has, *in a joint discussion with the APA, Boundless and PPF*, agreed that the proposed Synergy Kayak would be the ideal vehicle for our operation.
   2. Boundless Africa has facilitated the process of getting the “Canoe Operation” branded to similarly represent the ARTP branded product ***Desert Knights***.
      1. Roland Vorwerk (Boundless) facilitated the design and logo, and it was used on our brochures and banners at the Launch of both Desert Knights and ***Desert Kayak Trails*** (previously known as ARTP Canoe Trails).
      2. Attached an electronic version of the banners that was printed and used at the “Launch” – take note of the name change of the Canoe Trails.
   3. ARTP Canoe Trails is now named: ***Desert Kayak Trails***
2. **TRAINING**
   1. The training of the river guides is in accordance with the requirements of the African Paddlers Association (Southern Africa’s Governing Body of River Guide Operations), and is approached as follows:
      1. **A five-day initial sifting training:**
         1. Phase one (sifting training) was done from Sendelings drift as base. The costs to SanParks, in hosting the training, will be publicized in the next progress report. The GIZ funded the training, but SanParks did incur some additional costs in supplying housing to APA, amongst others.
         2. All permanent staff elected, together with community members proposed, participated in an orientation process, which tested each member for their natural skills, both in their natural fear levels for water, their swimming skills, their orientation as team members on a kayak with each other, their ability to handle crisis’s on water, and finally their ability to propel themselves on a Kayak downstream, and through rapids.
         3. The initial selection of the community members (both from South Africa and Namibia) was done by advertising in the surrounding communities and was the responcibilty of SanParks and MET Park staff.
         4. A total of 15 community members attended day one of the sifting process.
         5. At the end of the first week of training, which took place in the week 25 February to 1 March 2014, we, ARTP PMC Members, through the guidance of the trainer, selected the ten potentially best community members to continue with the phase-two training: a week-long extensive training along the proposed route we intend kayaking.
         6. The participants were as follows:

Green represents Permanent staff members

Yellow represents community members who passed phase one

Red represents community members who failed phase one

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Listing of local** | **Name** | **Surname** | **Origin** | | **Contact number** | **T-Shirt size** | **Trouser size** | **Shoe size** | **First Disq** |
|  | 1. Nick | De Goede | Sanparks | 072 621 1514 | | XXL | 38 | 11 |  |
|  | 1. Norman | Links | Sanparks | 079 166 5040 | | M | 32 | 6 |  |
|  | 1. Fred | Strauss | Sanparks | 079 018 8663 | | L | 34 | 8 | Y |
|  | 1. Pieter | Van Wyk | Sanparks |  | | M | 34 | 9 |  |
| 1 | 1. Marshall | Carstens | SA Community | 074 047 8611 | | M | 34 | 8 |  |
| 2 | 1. Morne | Farmer | SA Community |  | | L | 34 | 7 |  |
|  | 1. Harold | De Wet | SA Community | 074 325 1845 | | S | 30 | 5 | Y |
| 3 | 1. Godfrey | Swartbooi | SA Community | 078 207 2335 | | M | 30 | 7 |  |
|  | 1. Gerhardus | Domrogh | SA Community | 078 505 5345 | | M | 32 | 5 | Y |
|  | 1. Vinte | Mendes | MET |  | | XL | 36 | 11 |  |
|  | 1. Francois | Snyders | NWR & Coordinator | 081 2088 083 | | XXL | 38 | 11 |  |
|  | 1. Verikomba | Kanguatjivi | NWR |  | | L | 38 | 8 | Y |
|  | 1. Johanna | Ashimbanga | NWR | 081 365 3205 | | S | 30 | 6 |  |
|  | 1. Caroline | Swartbooi | NWR | 081 875 4473 | | S | 30 | 4 |  |
| 4 | 1. Martin | Rooinasie | Nam Community | 081 627 1243 | | M | 30 | 7 |  |
|  | 1. Anton | Kenneth | Nam Community | 081 329 2197 | | M | 32 | 7 | Y |
| 6 | 1. Harold | Taseb | Nam Community | 081 713 1319 | | M | 32 | 7 |  |
|  | 1. Bricado | Christiaan | Nam Community | 081 213 7323 | | XL | 38 | 11 | Y |
|  | 1. Abraham | Apollus | Nam Community | 081 231 7486 | | XL | 38 | 10 | Y |
| 7 | 1. Nicodemus | Cloete | Nam Community | 081 414 7812 | | M | 30 | 9 |  |
| 8 | 1. Nevil | Kooper | Nam Community | 081 615 5812 | | L | 30 | 7 |  |
| 9 | 1. Johannes | Katsao | Nam Community | 081 682 5442 | | M | 32 | 7 |  |
|  | 1. Dimitri | Van Neel | Nam Community | 081 431 1970 | | M | 30 | 6 | Y |
| 10 | 1. Macdonald | Meyer | Nam Community | 081 219 7229 | | M | 30 | 6 |  |

**PHASE TWO – WEEKLONG EXTENSIVE TRAINING**

* 1. The APA authority, through the trainers of PaddleZone (Andrew Kellet), will train all participants in the skills needed to become a River Guide, and will have the right to further decrease the numbers of potential guides as they find members to be unsafe as guides.
  2. Phase two is scheduled for the week 14 – 19 of March 2014.
  3. All approved members will convene in Ai Ais Resort on the evening of the 13th of March 2014, from where they’ll be transferred to the Gamkab Confluence, from where the training will commence.
  4. The training will mimic the actual trail that will be commercially offered, and overnighting, catering and launching will be done in a manner in which all team members are trained on the standard at which the Desert Kayak Trails will be offered.
  5. The report on the progress of the training will follow.

1. **PHASE THREE – INTERSHIP**
   1. Every successful potential River Guide passing phase two of the training will have to do 17-day internship training.
   2. APA has agreed that they’ll take responsibility for placing the river guides for their internship training, leaving the ARTP PMC (and their respective organisations) with the costs and responsibility of transporting the guides to and from their respective training bases only.
   3. Internship is potentially going to be with fellow Operators such as Felix Unite, Amanzi, and Paddle Zone.
2. **PHASE FOUR – TEAM LEADER TRAINING**
   1. The last training needed, to legally host a Kayak Trail Operation, is the training of the Team Leaders. The schedule of when this will take place will still be decided on.
   2. The selected Team Leaders to undergo the advanced training is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Company** | **Role** |
|  |  |  |
| Francois Snyders | NWR | PMC member and project coordinator |
| Vinte Mendes | MET | PMC Member |
| Nick de Goede | SanParks | PMC Member |
| Pieter van Wyk | SanParks | Staff |

1. **THE LAUNCH**
   1. Both the ARTP’s Desert Knights and Desert Kayak Trails were launched at the Cape Argus’ Expo, held in Cape Town from 6 to 8 March 2014.
   2. The members participating in the marketing event were:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Company** | **Role** |
|  |  |  |
| Roland Vorwerk | Boundless | JMB Member, partner in set-up, media, social network and website |
| Zandry Haimbondi | NWR | Representing the Office of the MD |
| Francois Snyders | NWR | PMC member and project coordinator |
| Vinte Mendes | MET | PMC Member |
| Nick de Goede | SanParks | PMC Member |

* 1. The website [www.desertknights-mtb.com](http://www.desertknights-mtb.com) was re-launched as was the new online booking facility through the hyperlink to <http://www.staytoday.com.na/events/desert-knights-2014>
  2. Roland Vorwerk has sent an e-mail to the 63 clients whom have indicated their want to participate in the 2014 Desert Knights event. They will all register online in the week to come.
  3. We plan for a maximum of 100 participants in 2014.
  4. The Desert Kayak Trails will undertake their first commercial (paying clients participating) after members of the JMB, Media and other selected invitees (JMB’s discression) have participated in our first trails.
     1. The date (to be announced) will depend on the successful acquisition of assets and other needs, the completion of the training of River Guides and their respective registration.

1. **TEAM STRENGHT**
   1. Guided by APA we have agreed that:
      1. Any 4-day trial will have 4 x River Guides accompanying the guests, and will consist of:
         1. One team leader River Guide
         2. One permanent staff member River Guides
         3. Two community member River Guides
      2. Any 4-day trial will further have a support ground-based team, who will consist of trained River Guides, and who will facilitate the camp-setup and other duties related to hosting each event.
2. **BASE CAMP**
   1. It is envisaged that we will use four base-camps in executing a Desert Kayak Trail.
      1. The launch-camp – a known location on the Namibian side of the Orange River, close to the Gamkab Confluence.
         1. The PMC will approach the Director of MET and MD of NWR in the process. It is yet too early to present a plan, and we’ll best know after the completion of “phase two” of the training.
      2. Overnight camps one on the Namibian banks on the Orange River, still to be built, and with the same comments as mentioned in a.i.1.
      3. Overnight two (Richtersberg) and three (De Hoop) and two is existing campsites of SanParks.
      4. “Take-out” will happen on the Namibian bank of the Orange River, and will be at the Fish River Confluence, a camp still to be built, with the same comments as in a.i.1.

We are extremely proud about our success in the progress made with our events. We will present a follow-up on this report once further phases in executing the launch are achieved.

1. **EXTENTION 2**
   * + - 1. **SECOND TRAINING PHASE 14 – 19 March 2014**

The team participating in the second week of training were:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Listing of local** | **Name** | **Surname** | | **Origin** |
|  | 1. Nick | De Goede | | Sanparks **Trip Leader** |
|  | 1. Norman | Links | | Sanparks |
|  | 1. Fred | Strauss | | Sanparks **Logistics** |
|  | 1. Pieter | Van Wyk | | Sanparks **Trip Leader** |
| 1 | 1. Morne | | Farmer | SA Community |
| 2 | 1. Marshall | Carstens | | SA Community |
| 3 | 1. Godfrey | Swartbooi | | SA Community |
|  | 1. Francois | Snyders | | NWR & Coordinator & **Trip Leader** |
|  | 1. Verikomba | Kanguatjivi | | NWR **Logistics** |
|  | 1. Johanna | Ashimbanga | | NWR |
|  | 1. Caroline | Swartbooi | | NWR |
| 4 | 1. Martin | Rooinasie | | Nam Community |
| 5 | 1. Nicodemus | Cloete | | Nam Community |
| 6 | 1. Nevil | Kooper | | Nam Community |
| 7 | 1. Johannes | Katsao | | Nam Community |

Training included:

Theoretical (and practicing whilst on water) lessons regarding:

River Features and Hazards

The classification of river sections as per the international scale of river difficulty

Equipment terms and use

Boating skills

A Guide’s composure

Guide skills

Safety

Principle of rescue

Rope work

Practical drills on-river

River environment

Practical experiences was discussed and gained whilst on-river including buddy-ship, camp setup, as well as putting the above theory into our daily lives.

Specific extensive training was done on practical rescue (actual), swimming, wading, and other practises.

In the de-briefing cession each participating member had to proof their ability to swim in clear water (Ai Ais out-door pool) and some members was trained to safely and successfully swim for the first time ever; a great achievement!

* + - * 1. **PHASE THREE – INTERNSHIP**

The abovementioned members (trainees) have to do a 14-day internship, and will be placed with three Operators who will carry all costs, excluding the costs to get to and from their respective training bases.

The three participating Operators are:

Gravity (Onseepkans) – taking 4 of the team

Felix Unite (Noordoewer) – on stand-by to take “load” off Amanzi when needed

Amanzi (Noordoewer) – taking 7 of the team

Francois Snyders has visited all both Operators to see the arrangements are all in place for receiving the students.

Amanzi staff started their practice on the 21st of March 2014 and Camp Manager Charles Ndoli and Warden Mendes Vinte will visit the students sporadically to report on progress.

Gravity students commence with their internship on the 25th of March 2014; Ai Ais will facilitate the drop-off at Onseepkans. ensure arrangements are in place, and will report back on this.

* + - * 1. **MARKETING UPDATED**

Under the guidance of Boundless, the Desert Kayak Trail Project team agreed to have a professional photographer accompany the second phase of the training.

The images and video material collected will be received this week coming, and will be used on the website and other online medium to continue the marketing that was done at the Argus Expo.

The costs incurred in the collection of the images are covered by the GIZ budget, as specified.

The report is sent as an interim report, as progress is made, to keep all parties involved informed.

FRANCOIS SNYDERS

ARTP PMC

Compiled by the Coordinator of the ARTP PMC on behalf of the ARTP PMC Members.