12. TOURISM

The impact on the existing and future tourism industry is required to be evaluated, specifically in the light of the existing land uses surrounding the proposed sites.

This scoping evaluation is not intended to be a detailed and exhaustive tourism analysis of the area, but purely a basis from which to reasonably evaluate the significance of the likely impacts of the proposed development on the tourism industry.

This chapter provides an overview of the legislative environment of the tourism industry, covers the salient points of international, national, provincial, and local tourism, and describes the proposed impacts and issues of the proposed development on the tourism industry.

12.1. Methodology

Information was gathered about the tourism industry in the area of the development area using the following methods:

- Site visit
- Ad hoc interviews with various tourism facility operators in the area
- Interviews with key stakeholders such as the Lephalale Municipality, tourism facility operators in the immediate area of the existing power station
- Interviews with other consultants who have worked on tourism related projects in the area
- Internet research
- Personal knowledge and application
- Reference to other specialist reports as part of the EIA team.

12.2. Assumptions and Limitations

This chapter is not aimed at providing exhaustive tourism statistics for the Lephalale area. Rather, this chapter is aimed at providing the sufficient information to meaningfully inform the proposed development of a power station and ancillary facilities through the minimisation of negative environmental impacts, and optimisation of positive environmental impacts on the tourism industry in the area.

The information in this chapter is limited to brief interviews with a handful of parties in the tourism industry in the area, and also on the limited research that has already been undertaken. Projections were unable to be made with regards to quantifiable increases or decreases in the tourism industry as a result of the proposed development.

12.3. Background

12.3.1. Relevant Acts and Policies

- *The White Paper on the Development and Promotion of Tourism in South Africa, 1996*

  The White Paper provides a broad framework to guide the development, planning and management of tourism in South Africa. The context is set through a discussion on the potential and economic role of tourism in the country and the identification of constraints that hinder the realisation of this potential. Some of the key constraints relate to inadequate funding, limited community integration, inadequate education and training, poor environmental management, lack of infrastructure, increased levels of crime, and a lack of national, provincial and local tourism structures.

  Identifying tourism as an engine for economic growth, the White Paper builds a rationale and sets a clear vision for responsible tourism development. The vision is supported by a set of guiding principles for responsible tourism development and is underpinned by economic, social and environmental objectives.

  To achieve the vision, the following key performance areas for tourism development are sighted in the White Paper:
  * a safe and stable tourism environment.
  * involvement of local communities and previously neglected groups.
  * sustainable environmental management practices.
  * creating a globally competitive tourism industry.
  * ensuring innovative development that meet visitor requirements.
  * focus on product development and diversity.
  * effective training, capacity building and awareness promotion.
  * aggressive and creative marketing and promotion.
  * strong economic linkages with other economic sectors.
  * appropriate institutional structures.
  * appropriate support infrastructure.

  The White Paper goes further by recommending the formulation of a range of key policies and frameworks that will facilitate the role of tourism as an economic driver.

  Areas where further policy development is required include:
  * safety and security.

* education and training.
* access to finance.
* investment incentives.
* foreign investment.
* environmental management.
* product development.
* cultural resource management.
* transportation - air and ground.
* infrastructure.
* marketing and promotion.
* product quality and standards.
* regional co-operation.
* youth development.

In addition to its recommendations on specific policy development that will smooth the progress of tourism development, the White Paper broadly defines the roles to be played by various stakeholders involved in tourism, and provides a framework for institutional arrangements for tourism in South Africa.

Although the White Paper was developed at national level, it provides an overarching framework to guide tourism development across South Africa. In this respect it allows for the alignment of National, Provincial and Local tourism development to ensure "that everyone pulls in the same direction". The White Paper does not address specific requirements on Provincial or Local level, nor does it provide the required strategic direction. Provincial and Local governments therefore need to align to, and take guidance from the National White Paper when developing their own tourism development strategies as it pertains to the specific dynamics present.

- *Institutional Guidelines for Public Sector Tourism Development and Promotion in South Africa, 1999*
  The Inter-provincial Technical Committee of MINMEC (a joint forum of ministers responsible for tourism matters) compiled the Institutional Guidelines, published by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in 1999. It seeks to formulate the institutional system and mechanisms to facilitate synergy in the management of tourism between the various tiers of government. The document further provides clarity on the roles, responsibilities and allocation of funding at National, Provincial and Local Government level to inform intergovernmental co-ordination on matters regarding tourism.

  It is recognised in the institutional guidelines that historical development trends, macro conditions, constitutional dispensation and existing tourism structures differ at the various levels of government. Three models of institutional structures have therefore been proposed to accommodate the relevant circumstances at each level. These include:

* differentiated model.
* mainstream model.
* independent model.

One set of guidelines is proposed to ensure effective monitoring and control regardless of the model followed.

Specific guidelines and conditions with regards to the roles and responsibilities at each level of government are provided. The issues addressed and the respective guidelines in terms of the roles and responsibilities of the Lephalale Municipality at local level include the following:

* introduction of tourism legislation – alignment of local by-laws and regulations with national and provincial tourism policy.
* establishing international relations and agreements – reaching agreements with cities/local authorities in other countries, with the knowledge of national and provincial government.
* international tourism marketing and promotion activities – exposure of local areas within the framework of national marketing strategies and aligned to such.
* domestic tourism marketing activities – develop domestic marketing strategies in line with provincial marketing framework.
* provision of tourism infrastructure – providing local infrastructure taking cognisance of provincial tourism strategies.
* setting of tourism standards – annual inspection, certification and registration of tourism establishments.
* promoting tourism awareness – plan and implement programmes to improve tourism awareness within local authority in line with national and provincial campaigns.
* tourism training – assist in the implementation and promotion of national and provincial training programmes.
* establishing tourism incentives, investment and financing programmes – provide advice and assistance to emerging entrepreneurs in coordination with provincial investment framework.
* tourism information management – provide appropriate information as input to national and provincial systems.
* domestic tourism information dissemination – establish local tourism information offices.
* tourist guiding training – work in collaboration with provincial authorities to ensure representative curriculum content.

  * tourism development – lead tourism development in the area of consultation with provincial authorities.
  * tourism safety and security – establish local tourism safety programmes in collaboration with local business, SAPS and communities.

- *The Tourism Act, 1993*

  The objective of the Tourism Act is to make provision for the promotion of tourism to and in the Republic; the further regulation and rationalisation of the tourism industry; measures aimed at the maintenance and enhancement of the standards of facilities and services hired out or made available to tourists; and the co-ordination and rationalization, as far as practicable, of the activities of persons who are active in the tourism industry; with a view to the said matters to establish a board with legal personality which shall be competent and obliged to exercise, perform and carry out certain powers, functions and duties; to authorise the Minister to establish a grading and classification scheme in respect of accommodation establishments, the membership of which shall be voluntary; to authorize the Minister to establish schemes for prescribed sectors of the tourism industry, the membership of which shall be voluntary; to make provision for the registration of tourist guides; to prohibit any person to act for gain as a tourist guide unless he has been registered as a tourist guide in terms of the Act; to authorise the Minister to make regulations; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

  The Act prompted the establishment of the South African Tourism Board which acts as the juristic person with regards to this Act.

  The object of the board shall be, with due regard to the sustainability of environmental resources, to promote tourism by encouraging persons to undertake travels to and in the Republic, and with a view thereto:

  * to take measures in order to ensure that services which are rendered and facilities which are made available to tourists comply with the highest attainable standards.
  * to manage information and conduct research relating to tourism.
  * to advise the Minister on tourism policy, either of its own volition or when requested to do so by the Minister.

12.3.2. Implications for Development

The proposed development has a number of restrictions, regulations and guidelines that apply to both the construction and operation phases. From a tourism perspective, the Environment Conservation Act (ECA), and more specifically National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), enforce a holistic view of the development through a thorough investigation of all aspects of the environment including tourism as one of the socio-economic imperatives in the area surrounding the proposed development site.

According to the Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004), the proposed development must take cognisance of the biodiversity of the area to be developed with special focus on protected species, alien species and sensitive ecosystems. The development must also be carried out in a way that will ensure that the utilisation of biodiversity is managed in an ecologically sustainable way.

The White Paper on Promotion and Development of Tourism in South Africa, provides guidelines and motivation to the tourism industry which relate specifically to sustainable development and environmental management practices.

The promotion of the tourism industry through the creation of linkages to other economic sectors is probably the most important aspect of the paper. In the case of the proposed Matimba B development, the promotion of linkages between the mining and power generation sector, and the tourism sector should be highlighted through this report. The Tourism Act of 1993 endorses the promotion of tourism in South Africa and established the South African Tourism Board which is responsible for aiding tourism development in an area like Lephalale and aiding communities in linking commercial practices with tourism.

12.3.3. Tourism in South Africa

The World Travel and Tourism Council (2003) calculated that South Africa's travel and tourism system generated R108 billion of economic activity (total demand) in 2002. The industry is reported to have had the following *direct* impacts:

- 492 700 jobs are maintained through this economic system, representing 3 per cent of total employment.
- R 31.1 billion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), equivalent to 3 per cent of the total GDP.

However, since the travel and tourism system touches upon all sectors of the economy, its real impact is far greater. South Africa's travel and tourism economy *directly* and *indirectly* accounts for:

- 1 148 000 jobs, representing 6.9 per cent of total employment.
- R 72.5 billion of GDP, equivalent to 7.1 per cent of total GDP.
- R 42.8 billion of exports, services and merchandise or 12.5 per cent of total exports.
- R 17.1 billion of Capital Investment, or 10.3 per cent of total investment.
- R 920 million of Government Expenditure, or a 0.5 per cent share.

Moreover, the World Travel and Tourism Council argues that over the next ten years South Africa's travel and tourism system is expected to achieve annualised real growth of:

- 5.1 per cent in travel and tourism GDP, R 84.8 billion in 2012 for the industry directly and up to R194.3 billion for the travel and tourism economy overall (this figure includes direct and indirect expenditure).
- 3.3 per cent in travel and tourism employment to 679 200 jobs directly in the industry and 3.1 per cent to 1 555 300 jobs in the travel and tourism economy overall.
- 4.8 per cent in total travel and tourism demand to R 288.5 billion.
- 4.7 per cent in visitor exports, rising to R 86.2 billion.
- 5.2 per cent in terms of capital investment, increasing to R47 billion.
- 1.6 per cent in terms of government expenditure to R1.8 billion.

The tourism industry thus represents an important economic sector in South Africa, which requires attention and effort to strengthen the products, as well as linkages to other economic sectors.

- *International Tourists*

  Tourism South Africa (2004) state that the vast majority (55%) of the international tourists to South Africa are from our immediate neighbours. The majority of the remainder (31%) of the international tourists are mostly from United Kingdom, Germany and the USA. In the case of African tourists, the main reasons for visiting the country relate to business travel with holiday or leisure tourism taking in a secondary position. However, in the case of overseas visitors the purpose of visitation is the reverse, with the overriding emphasis on leisure travel.

12.3.4. Tourism in Limpopo Province

The Limpopo Province attracted 3% of foreign tourists to the country in 2003 with 58% of these being for leisure purposes, and only 13% being for business (Strisa, 2004). The vast majority of foreign air travel tourists to the province (70%) travel to the Kruger Park, with none being registered as visiting Lephalale.

Limpopo Province accounted for 6% of foreign tourists in 2004 (SA Tourism, 2004), which relates to the lowest proportion of tourists visiting a province, with the exception of Northern Cape which only captured 3% of the foreign tourists. No details for 2004 were available for domestic visitors.

South African Tourism (2004) state that Limpopo Province received 9.4% of the domestic tourists in 2003, with the province being the 5th most popular province. Most of these trips were from within the province itself. These trips appear to be seasonal, with most of the trips being generated in December.

12.3.5. Tourism in and around Lephalale

- *Tourism Trends and Land Use*

The tourism industry in the Lephalale area is relatively new and is currently in a rapid growth phase (Johan Erasmus, *pers comm.*). The rapid growth is resulting in significant land use changes in and around the town of Lephalale. It has been identified that the three pillars of the economy of the Lephalale Municipality are:

∗ Mining and power generation.
∗ Agriculture (cattle, citrus, tobacco).
∗ Tourism (hunting, ecotourism, business).

Traditionally, the land uses in the area were agricultural (cattle) and mining (coal). Mr Johan Erasmus of the Lephalale Municipality (*pers. comm*), indicated that 14 years ago, there were in the region of 120 000 head of cattle in the Lephalale Municipality area. This number has shrunk drastically to 20 000 presently. This is likely to indicate a change from an agricultural-based to an ecotourism and hunting-based land use.

Studies referred to in the Tourism Plan for Lephalale (Lorimer & Assoc., 2002) indicate significantly higher stocking rates with wild ungulates when compared to cattle, sheep and goats. The low rainfall and poor grazing experienced by some farmers may be a driving factor for the change from cattle to game farming.

The perceived growth of tourism in this area is relative to the growth of tourism throughout the country, and indeed the Limpopo Province.

Research undertaken by Dr Hendrik Nel and Mr Johan Erasmus (Lephalale Tourism, 2004) showed that over 73% of all visitors to the area are leisure tourists (this includes hunting and ecotourism). Business tourism makes up over 20% of the visitors, and over 6% are holiday makers passing through the area. This research also showed that while tourism currently only represents around 2.2% of GDP of the Lephalale area, the contribution to the tertiary sector of the economy was 30.2%. The enormous contribution of the power station and mine to the local economy explains this skew. Furthermore it is noted that although foreign tourists only make up 31% of the tourists to the area, they contribute over 46% to the tourism income. Limpopo visitors and Lephalale residents both contribute less than 2% of the tourism income, with visitors from the rest of South Africa contributing 52% of the tourism economy, but making up 67% of the total visitors. This once again highlights the economic importance of the foreign tourism to the area.

The most significant numbers of tourists to the area (also based on contribution to the economy) have been broken down into the following groups:

* Business
* Leisure
  - Hunting
  - Ecotourism
* Passing through

- *Tourism Supply*

The estimated number of beds in the area at the end of 2004 was over 3000 (Strisa, 2004). Most of these beds are available in lodges (1022) and chalets (1009), followed by guesthouses (553) and farmhouses (231). Hotels (113) and motels (89) also have significant numbers of beds. Permanent tents (145) and tent stands (129) are less numerous, with a mere 12 beds in bush camps.

Lodges, chalets and other 'bush' accommodation supply the hunting and ecotourism markets, while the hotels, motels and guest houses supply the business tourism markets. It is interesting to note that while lodges and chalets have the highest number of beds, they have relatively low occupancies and short stay durations. The highest occupancy rates are noted in the hotels, motels and guest lodges. Research undertaken by SiVEST Selatile Moloi has shown that these constant and high occupancy rates (sometimes up to 80% or more averaged over a year) are due to the constant stream of business people to the area. These business tourists are primarily visiting the power station and mine for work purposes.

Lodges and other 'bush' accommodation, are primarily occupied by hunters. The hunting season is at its peak during the winter, which is when occupancies in lodges are highest, usually around 80%.

- *Tourism Demand*

Tourism demand in the area relates primarily to the outdoor and wildlife aspects with 74% of all tourists visiting the Lephalale area for these reasons (Lephalale Tourism, 2004). The importance of business tourism cannot be underestimated, however. The occupancy rates for hotels and motels are unusually high (65% and 80% respectively).

These occupancies do not show seasonal variation and appear to reflect the high numbers of business tourists staying in these facilities. The main industries in the area are mining, power generation and retail. Business tourism makes up a far less percentage of tourists visiting the area, but the length of stay is notably higher than leisure tourists which make up the vast majority of the tourists to the area.

In summary, the tourism demand in terms of tourism numbers appears to be primarily from leisure tourism, but occupancy rates are on average below 50% on an annual basis. This occupancy is highly seasonal. The business tourism reflects lower numbers, but longer stays and high, constant occupancy rates of between 60% and 80%.

Recently, there have been no tours to the existing power station, whereas weekly tours were previously available. The potential for these tours to take place is certainly there, but the Communications Officer at the power station explained that these groups need to be screened for security purposes before being allowed to make a booking. The majority of tours around Matimba Power Station are primarily for educational purposes for schools. No further details were available on the frequency, or size of these tours.

- *Business Tourism*

This type of tourism reflects the tourist who visits an area purely to do business. Any other tourism activities such as sight-seeing or game viewing for example, are secondary. Limpopo visitors are the most important for business tourism as they make up 34.5% of tourists in the area, while business visitors from the rest of South Africa make up 26.3% of tourists, with 7% being foreign and 5% being from Lephalale itself (Lephalale Tourism, 2004). Therefore, most of these tourists come from within South Africa, with less than 10% coming from outside the country.

Business tourists stay primarily in hotels and motels. The occupancy rates for hotels and motels are unusually high (65% and 80% respectively). These occupancies are also unusually aseasonal. The main industries in the area are mining, power and retail. Many of the institutions interviewed stated that most business tourists were linked to the power station, mining and other retail. It was also stated that the shut down periods at the power station usually corresponded with 100% occupancy at some tourism establishments. Government departments such as the Department of Education also provided good business for some hotels.

Business tourism makes up a far less percentage of reasons for visiting the area, but the length of stay is notably higher than leisure tourists which make up the vast majority of the tourists to the area. Unfortunately no information was available on the percentage contribution of this form of tourism to the local economy.

- *Leisure Tourism*

Leisure tourism is important to the future of the tourism market in the Lephalale area. This type of tourism accounts for the majority of the tourists to the area (Lephalale Tourism, 2004). Almost 90% of foreign tourists are visiting the area for leisure purposes, with this being represented by 55.2% of Limpopo tourists, 66.1% of visitors from the rest of South Africa, and 95% of visitors from within Lephalale.

Leisure tourism is made up of a number of subgroupings, which include ecotourism and hunting, but also include other activities such as sport (golf), visiting restaurants and water sports. These activities have been grouped into broad groups of ecotourism (game viewing, photographic safaris, family holidays on game farms etc) and hunting. These tourists generally spend their time in the game reserves and lodges in the area, but visitors from the local area are also noted as visiting the area for sporting purposes and visiting restaurants. While this study has not expressly focussed on sporting and restaurants (as they represent very low percentages of reasons for visiting the area), it is interesting to note that 40% (by far the majority) of leisure tourists from the Lephalale area cite visiting restaurants as being their primary activity. No information was available of the contribution these tourists make to the economy.

- *Ecotourism*

  Ecotourism or photographic safaris (as opposed to hunting) is a relatively new industry in the area. It is noted that 20% of foreign leisure tourists visiting the area, visit the area for this reason, with approximately 60% of Limpopo leisure visitors, just over 60% of leisure visitors from the rest of South Africa, and approximately 20% of Lephalale leisure visitors being in the area of this reason. While many hunting lodges also offer ecotourism opportunities, these activities often cannot occur within the same space at the same time. From the distinct drop off of occupancies at lodges and other bush accommodation during summer, the importance of increasing occupancy through ecotourism during the hunting low season is seen to be important.

* *Hunting*

  Hunting (as a form of leisure tourism) is an important sector of the area's tourism industry. For lodges and other bush accommodation, this appears to be their main source of tourists. In fact, this sector makes up over 88% of the foreign leisure tourists to the area, over 11% of Limpopo leisure visitors, 21% of leisure visitors from the rest of South Africa, and less that 2% of leisure visitors from Lephalale. This industry is certainly the mainstay of leisure tourism in the area, and it is expected to grow substantially over the next few years.

- *Passing Through*

  The location of Lephalale on a major route between Gauteng and Botswana means that it is subject to a proportion of tourism which visits the area only consequentially. This form of tourism comprises just over 3% of foreign tourists to the area, 7.5% of Limpopo visitors, 66% of visitors from the rest of South Africa and does not apply to those from the Lephalale area. Various sectors of the tourism industry (for example hotels, motels and restaurants) will certainly benefit from this strategic benefit. This form of tourism is considered small and is therefore not considered further in this scoping study.

12.3.6. Future tourism in and around Lephalale

The projected tourism growth in the Lephalale area should be considered when planning any significant development. The importance of the tourism industry to the economy of the area is likely to continue to grow into the future. This is likely to be related to the hunting and ecotourism industries, but could also be linked to any expansion of the industrial operations and the related business tourism. The existing importance of the business tourism sector, and its strong links to the mine and power station are also viewed as important.

The Lephalale area has been described from a tourism perspective by Lorimer and Associates (2002). The main groupings of tourism attraction areas are listed below:

- A sporting centre (Lephalale town)
- An events venue (Lephalale town)
- Game watching
  * D'Nyala Nature Reserve
  * Ferroland Private Game Reserve
  * Mokolo Nature Reserve and adjoining areas
  * Lapalala Wilderness and adjoining areas
  * Marakele National Park, Welgevonden Game Reserve and adjoining areas
  * Wonderkop Reserve and adjoining areas

* All areas along the Limpopo River

While these may have been identified as tourism attraction areas, the opinion is that only the "game watching" areas would potentially be affected by the proposed development.

The challenge faced by the tourism industry in the area is to increase leisure tourism / ecotourism visitors in the summer seasons. This would primarily relate to ecotourism rather than hunting. The various marketing strategies done by the Municipality reflect this as a primary objective. There is also potential to increase tourism in the area through tours to the power station(s) and/or the mine.

12.4. Potential Impact of the Proposed Power Station on Tourism

12.4.1. Impacts of Matimba Power Station (Existing)

The existing power station (and associated mining activities) is currently almost entirely responsible for business to the area, as these are the two largest businesses activities in the area. The impact of these existing operations can therefore only be viewed in the light of the current tourism situation. This is explained in the previous section of this report. The positive impacts as a result of the existing power station are significant to the business tourism sector, with no negative impacts on this sector. The impacts on other sectors of the tourism industry as a result of the existing power station cannot be accurately quantified. However, based on interviews conducted during the field trip, it was determined that if there was any negative impact, it would relate to the ecotourism sector where these venues were located within proximity of the power station. Negative impacts currently relate to visual and noise impact. Some landowners explained that they were not able to compete with other tourism operations in the Waterberg area for example, and they attributed this to the presence of the mine and power station. However, other research (Strisa, 2004) shows that there are probably other reasons, such as greater accessibility to other similar destinations closer the source markets and gateways such as Gauteng.

In conclusion, the opinion is that the existing Matimba Power Station is not having a negative impact on the overall tourism industry in the area, but is in fact having a positive impact.

The visual impact from the northern foothills of the Waterberg range is affected to a small degree by the visual intrusion of the existing power station. It is therefore acknowledged that the presence of heavy industry in the Lephalale area may present a limiting factor to the promotion of the area as a pristine wilderness area. The basis for the scoping study of the proposed power station, with its ancillary activities, takes into account the cumulative impact of the new power station and the proposed power station.

12.4.2. Anticipated Impacts

The proposed power station is anticipated to result in the following impacts which could possibly relate to the tourism industry:

- Visual Impact
- Noise Pollution
- Air Pollution
- Groundwater Pollution
- Surface Water Pollution
- Soil Pollution
- Increased business visits to the area
- Land Use

While the environmental impacts described above have not been specifically examined, they have been related to the tourism industry. These impacts are considered in relation to the following types of tourism which are common in the study area:

- Leisure
  - hunting
  - ecotourism
- Business
- Passing through (this sector is not covered in detail as these tourists make up very low numbers)

12.4.3. Scoping of Impacts relating to the Tourism Industry

Four major impacts that are likely to result from the development of the proposed power station and ancillary facilities have been identified:

- Visual Impact
- Noise Impact
- Land Use
- Corporate Demand

- *Visual Impact Relative to Tourism*

  The specialist visual impact study undertaken as part of the environmental scoping study (refer to Chapter 11) indicates that the visual impact of the proposed developments are made up of a matrix of inputs depending on where the observer is standing. The major groups of receivers of the visual impact included those at game lodges and farms. This grouping is most pertinent to the ecotourism industry. Visual impact is not deemed important to the business tourism sector as this visitor profile is not concerned with attractive surroundings, and therefore visual impacts. The visual impact report further stated that this group of receivers would be least impacted if the facilities were to be located as close to Nelsonskop (power station) and Nelsonskop or Zongezein (ancillary services) as possible.

The hunting sector of the tourism market is likely to not be as sensitive (Johan Erasmus, Mike Gardner, *pers. comm*.) to visual impacts of the proposed development as the ecotourism sector, but consideration is given to reducing visual impact to this group of tourists in our assessment. Ecotourism visitors are regarded as being most sensitive to the visual landscape in the area. The flat topography of the area is both an advantage and a disadvantage. An advantage in that if one (say a tourist at a bush camp) is surrounded by typical vegetation of the area (woodland of between 4-6 m high), one does not have long distance views. This is also a disadvantage in that the existing power station can be easily seen from distances of over 12km if one is standing on a slightly elevated or open area. This is particularly true of sites areas in the northern foothills of the Waterberg which are within the viewshed (albeit at a great distance) of the existing and therefore the proposed power station. Visual impact is likely to be perceived to be higher at night as a result of the lighting on tall stacks.

It was however explained by some ecotourism operators that the power station was in fact an impressive visual landmark that they drew attention to as part of their tourism offering.

The business sector does not visit the area for scenic purposes and therefore visual impact of the proposed development would not be an issue. Similarly, the passing though sector are doing so purely for convenience rather than for scenic appeal. The clustering of activities to reduce cumulative visual impact is that main objective through the use of these sites.

- *Noise Impact Relative to Tourism*

Noise impact was identified as part of the scoping process (refer to Chapter 15). It has therefore been established that significant noise impact would be experienced within a radius of about 6 km from the proposed development site. The general recommendation from the noise impact study is that clustering the proposed development with the existing development would minimise the noise footprint.

As described for the "visual impact" section, the ecotourism sector of tourists would be most sensitive to noise impacts, which are exacerbated at night due to lack of other ambient noise and the inversion layer which allows sound to be carried further from a source.

The proposed development is not expected to increase the noise footprint from its existing extent. Therefore, it can be determined that noise is unlikely to perceptibly increase in the surrounding areas, and therefore is unlikely to cause any additional negative impact to tourists in the area.

- *Land Use Relative to Tourism*

The various land uses surrounding the proposed development sites are dominated by cattle farming to the immediate south, hunting and ecotourism to the immediate north, residential to the east. Mixed cattle farming and hunting occurs to the west of the existing power station.

There are existing tourism-related land uses currently taking place on land that is being considered for site alternatives, these are listed below:

∗ Appelvlakte – Grootegeluk (Ferroland) game farm and hunting area
∗ Nelsonskop – Grootegeluk (Ferroland) game farm and hunting area
∗ Naauonkomen – Grootegeluk (Ferroland) game farm and hunting area
∗ Eenzaamheid – cattle/game farming
∗ Droogeheuvel – cattle/game farming
∗ Zongezien – cattle/game farming
∗ Kuipersbult – cattle/game farming
∗ Kromdraai – cattle/game farming

Should development take place on any of the sites where game farming or hunting presently occurs, there will be a significant and immediate negative impact on that tourism activity. In the case of Nelsonskop and Appelvlakte, Kumba Resources indicated that if these sites were selected, the conservation management would motivate for the purchasing of Van der Waltsman and the western portion of Graafwater for conservation purposes. This would effectively mitigate the loss of Nelsonskop and Appelvlakte if they were to be selected as development sites.

There are no tourism activities that operate, or depend exclusively on the sites put forward as alternative sites. Therefore, the impact of loss of tourism activities as a result of land use on these sites is anticipated to be of a low significance. This matter, however needs to be examined in more detail as part of the EIA phase.

- *Corporate Demand*

  Corporate demand describes the demand for business tourism accommodation in the area. This impact is likely to be positive and will be the fastest growth area of tourism should the development proceed. The increased influx of business tourists during construction (short-term) and operation (long-term) will create an increased demand for accommodation to cater for this market.

  Surveys indicated that the facilities (generally hotels and motels) are running at relatively high occupancies presently as a result of high numbers of business tourists. This may create opportunities for the development of new facilities to meet this demand. This is seen as a positive impact to the tourism industry in general. Linked to this corporate demand, it could also be argued that exposure of the area not only as a business destination, but the possibility of repeat visits for leisure purposes (by business tourists with their families for example) would be a secondary spin-off of the increased business tourism.

12.5. Conclusions

12.5.1. Preferred Site Selection

Table 12.1 and 12.2 indicate the interaction of the various sectors of tourism, with the predicted impacts on the tourism industry. The ratings were totalled for each of the predicted impacts per site. The higher the score the more suitable the site is when related to the tourism industry in the area. Each alternative site is evaluated according to three tourism sectors/types, namely:

- Ecotourism (A)
- Hunting (B)
- Business (C)

Table 12.1: Potential impacts and development suitability for the proposed power station sites

Farm Name	**Appelvlakte 448 LQ**			**Nelsonskop 464 LQ**			**Naauwontkomen 509 LQ**			**Eenzaamheid 687 LQ**		
Tourism Type	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**
Issue												
Noise	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	4
Visual	2	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	3	1	2	4
Corporate Demand	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Sub Total	9	11	12	12	12	12	9	9	10	7	8	12
Total	**32**			**36**			**28**			**27**		

Table 12.2: Potential impacts and development suitability for the sites proposed for ancillary infrastructure

Farm Name	**Appelvlakte 448 LQ**			**Nelsonskop 464 LQ**			**Naauwontkomen 509 LQ**			**Eenzaamheid 687 LQ**			**Droogeheuvel 447 LQ**			**Zongezien 467 LQ**			**Kuipersbult 511 LQ**			**Kromdraai 690 LQ**		
Tourism Type	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**C**
Issue																								
Noise	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	1	2	4	1	2	4	4	4	4	1	2	4	1	2	4
Visual	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	4	4	2	2	4	1	2	4
Corporate Demand	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Sub Total	10	10	12	10	12	12	10	10	12	7	8	12	7	8	12	12	12	12	7	8	12	6	8	12
Total	**32**			**34**			**32**			**27**			**27**			**36**			**27**			**26**		

12.5.2. Site Preference Ratings

The site preference rating for the sites in terms of tourism impact is outlined in Table 12.3 and Table 12.4.

Table 12.3: The Site Preference Rating of the alternative Sites for the power station with regards to tourism impact

Farm name	Site Preference Rating
Farm Appelvlakte 448 LQ	2 (not preferred)
Farm Nelsonskop 464 LQ	4 (preferred)
Farm Naauwontkomen 509 LQ	3 (acceptable)
Farm Eenzaamheid 687 LQ	2 (not preferred)

The preferred site for the location of the power station is farm Nelsonskop 464 LQ, followed by farms Appelvlakte 448 LQ, Naauwontkomen 509 LQ, and finally Eenzaamheid 687 LQ.

Table 12.4: The Site Preference Rating of the alternative sites for the ancillary infrastructure with regards to tourism impact

Farm name	Site Preference Rating
Farm Appelvlakte 448 LQ	2 (not preferred)
Farm Nelsonskop 464 LQ	4 (preferred)
Farm Naauwontkomen 509 LQ	3 (acceptable)
Farm Eenzaamheid 687 LQ	2 (not preferred)
Farm Droogeheuwel 447 LQ	2 (not preferred)
Farm Zongezien 467 LQ	3 (acceptable)
Farm Kuipersbult 511 LQ	2 (not preferred)
Farm Kromdraai 690 LQ	2 (not preferred)

In the event that farm Nelsonskop 464 LQ is nominated as the preferred site for the proposed power station then the preferred site for the location of the ancillary services is farm Zongenzein 467 LQ. In the event that another site is nominated for the construction of the proposed power station the following sites would be acceptable for the establishment of ancillary infrastructure farms Nelsonskop 464 LQ, Naauwontkomen 509 LQ and Appelvlakte 448 LQ.

12.5.3. General

The tourism industry in the Lephalale area is currently in a growth phase, largely as a result of the changing rural land uses from agriculture to game farming/hunting/ecotourism. The increase in the importance of industry in the area has also been a driving factor ensuring high occupancies at a number of the tourism accommodation in the urban areas of Lephalale.

In general, it is anticipated that the proposed power station development would create more business for the urban accommodation in the area, but would be marginal in its positive impact on the rural accommodation which is not in the immediate location of the power station. However, the increased presence of business tourists in the area, would create opportunities for the rural accommodation (lodges etc) and increase the chance that these business tourists could return at a later stage with their families as leisure tourists.

Concerns of tourism accommodation operators related to possible increases in crime during the construction phase in particular. While unrelated to this particular project, other concerns related to the repeated power cuts that affected many of these establishments. Some landowners and tourism accommodation operators are concerned with issues related to the existing power station and mine. These issues include visual and noise impact, as well as concerns relating to trees dying and fences rusting in the vicinity of the power station. These impacts, while real and significant for landowners adjacent to the power station, do not seem to be reflected by other tourism operators further from the power station.

12.6. Recommendations

The proposed power station development is anticipated not to adversely affect the existing overall tourism industry in the area. However, it is likely to in fact increase tourism numbers to the area (albeit in the form of business tourism) as well as increasing the profile of the area as a unique ecotourism area. Negative impacts related to the tourism industry as a result of visual, noise and other climatic variances (whether perceived or real) need to be addressed through the ambit of the EIA process. Specific tourism industry related recommendations are as follows:

- Visual impact of power station to be reduced as advised by the Visual Impact Specialist.
- Noise impact of power station to be reduced as advised by the Noise Impact Specialist.
- Power cuts to many of the tourism accommodation operators to be addressed and remedied by Eskom.

As part of the Impact Assessment phase of this study the following aspects need to be clarified through interaction with the other specialists on the EIA team:

- More detailed assessment of the impact of the preferred site on the tourism industry.

- Cumulative visual impact (especially as viewed from the higher areas to the south of the site).
- Cumulative noise impact.
- Land use impacts (relating to loss of conservation/hunting/ecotourism land uses).
- Mitigation / optimisation measures for identified impacts.