

landscape, specifically the formation of the diamondiferous terraces and the history of prospecting in the region, as well as discussions included pertaining to the difficulty experienced by the conservation authorities in managing these impacts, these aspects can be overcome.

Additionally, the change in river landscapes from rocky and braided, to perennial pools influences the type of river experience that guests which be exposed to. To overcome this it is critical that guides be trained in briefing guests to broaden an understanding of each sections river landscapes and vegetation types, as well as cultural use thereof.

Additionally, since it is critical that this river section be financially viable, and ecologically sustainable, it is recommended that differentiation of the product is offered. By providing luxury river trips, as well as classic or traditional trips, the market can be broadened by making the experience more accessible. This should contribute to increasing the viability of this section.

Crowding, such as currently experienced along the Noordoewer-Aussenkehr section, is perceived as a potential problem. However, by only having a single concessionaire offering the product from both Gamkab Adventure Hub, and collecting guests from Sendelingsdrift, these aspects can be addressed by utilising time-spatial planning techniques, radio communication between groups, experienced guides, and operational practices.

Visual impacts as a result of developments along the river can be negated by placing permanent infrastructure away from the river, enhancing the desert experience rather than the river experience. This dual experiential approach will fit in well with the luxury river trips.

To further diversify the product range, as well as bolster financial viability, it has been recommended that a fishing experience be offered within the portion of the river that has large perennial pools. A sensitivity that arises is whether this should be allowed within the protected areas. Due to current impacts along the river, as well as the need to illustrate the value of sport fishing as an alternative to gillnetting, it is recommended that this experience be allowed, using “catch-and-release” principles. (Refer Map 99.)



Map 99: Habitat Integrity, Section 10 (ARTP)

4.3.10.3 CDP

Southern Namibia is characterised by unique biodiversity associated with the transition between summer and winter rainfall, resulting in two distinct vegetation types – succulent Karoo, and Nama-Karoo. Both these vegetation types are traversed by the LOR, a river that has been the lifeline within this arid region. As such human development has been influenced by the availability of water, soil fertility and climatic influences.

This tourism development concept has been prepared based on initial consultative discussions and fieldwork, and was endorsed by the Minister of Environment and Tourism in a briefing meeting held on 4th July 2008.

The proposed product is based within the shared resource area between the Ai-Ais Hot Springs Game Park and the Richtersveld National Park, the core area of the ARTP, and focuses on the uniqueness of a large perennial river flowing through a desert. Currently, the main focus of the well established rafting and canoeing industry along the LOR is from Noordoewer to Aussenkehr. By establishing an adventure hub at Gamkab, the formalised river industry believes that the portion of the river from Gamkab to Sendelingsdrift can be utilised in a viable and sustainable manner.

This possibility has been established by the opening of the Sendelingsdrift port of entry, and the Pont, creating an alternative access to the region and its resources. The presence of the Noordoewer-Rosh Pinah road further enhances the tourism potential of the river by allowing for the establishment of a series of luxury river safari camps along the river and an adventure hub at Gamkab.

Not only will this product unlock the tourism potential of the river section within the Ai-Ais Hot Springs Game Park, and the ARTP, but also vastly diversify the product base within the Region, both on land and on the river.

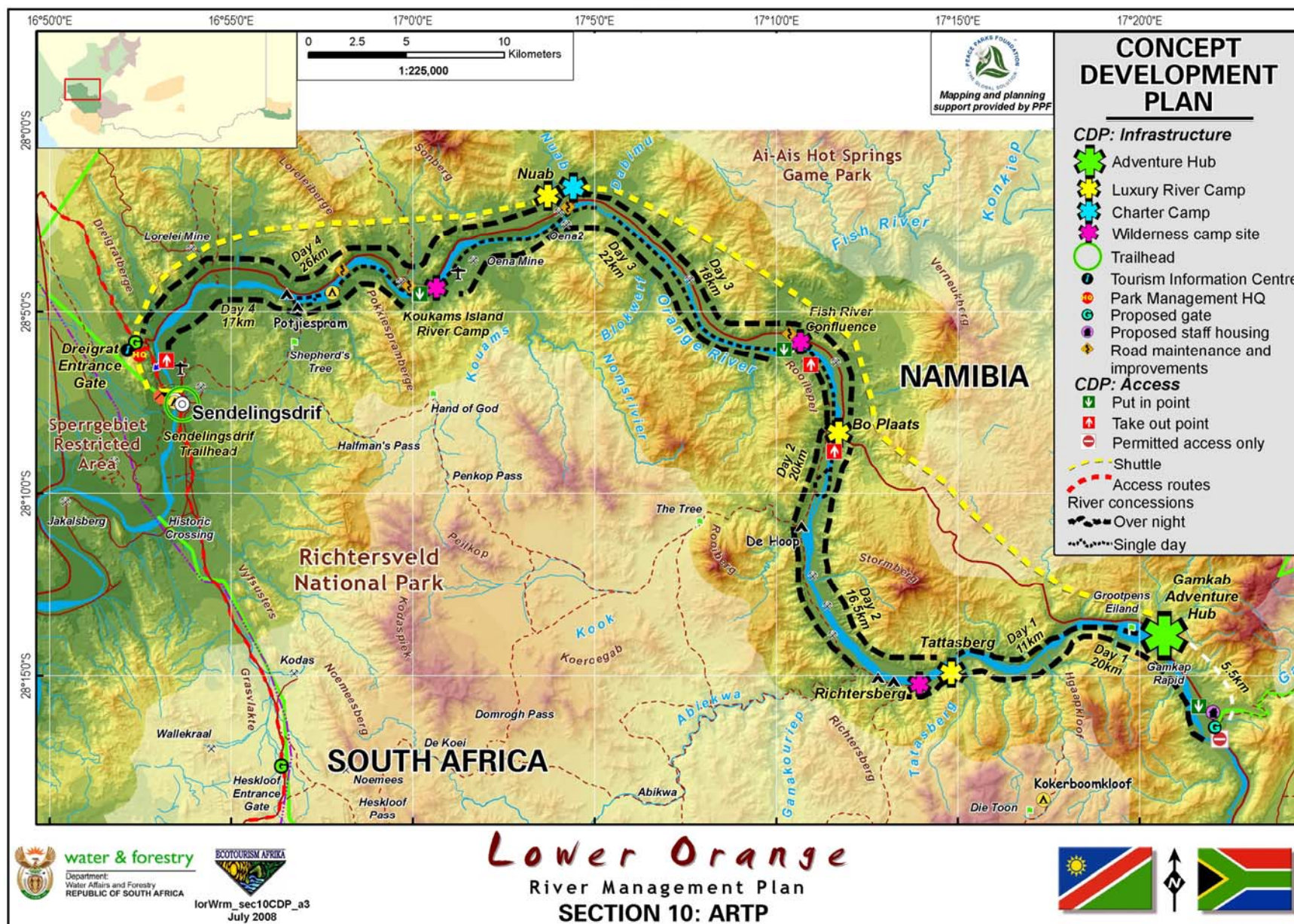
Packaged as a single concession this section could offer three distinct products (refer Map 100):

- Luxury river safaris: single – multi day (ex-Gamkab and ex-Sendelingsdrift);
- Adventure river trips: single – multi day (ex-Gamkab and ex-Sendelingsdrift); and
- Fishing charters: single – multi day (ex-Gamkab and ex-Nuab).

The role of the ARTP is critical in this river section, since with access controls at either side, Gamkab and Dreigat, it is possible to control activities within this shared resource area. By doing this it should be possible to utilise the Tattasberg camp as part of the luxury river experience, changing its function from being an underutilised 4x4 camp to becoming an integral part of a unique luxury river safari, significantly raising its status and occupancy. This change in use must be discussed between the Richtersveld CPA, Trust and the SANParks, so that it can be redeveloped as a fully catered and serviced lodge rather than a self-catered 4x4 camp.

As a shared resource area within the ARTP, it will be necessary to coordinate and align all tourism infrastructure and use along shared principles. It is envisaged that the river experiences – luxury river safaris; classic river adventure trails; and the charter trips (birding and fishing) – should lead the way in aspects such as access control measures, safety standards; revenue sharing; product development; market segmentation and differentiation, concession management and community equity modelling. It is hoped that the other tourism uses within the shared resource area follow a similar and aligned approach, rather than stimulating “tit for tat” development.

Due to the limited access to and along the shared resource area, and the nature of the terrain being extremely rugged and inaccessible on the South African side, while the Namibian side is extremely accessible due to the presence of the Rosh Pinah mining road, it is recommended that besides the Tattasberg Luxury River Safari Camp, the South African side target the 4x4 market, utilising the Richtersberg; De Hoop; Pootjiespram; and Sendelingsdrift camps; while the Namibian side targets the river industry.



Map 100: CDP, Section 10 (ARTP)

- *Luxury River Safaris*

The ideal product should consist of an *Adventure Hub at Gamkab*, consisting of a lodge, self-catering accommodation and campsite, as well as facilities for storing and maintaining equipment such as canoes, rafts and vehicles. This facility will also serve as support to the access control gate at Gamkab, which will control access into the Park from the south, and could also be used for aspects such as a tourism information centre for the TFCA.

Linked to this Lodge and associated facilities would be three *luxury River Safari Camps*, which would be serviced from the main road along the river, allowing for a river safari product which breaks the current camping trend, thereby broadening the market and allowing access to the river for top-end tourists. It is proposed that these River Safari Camps be based at Tattasberg; Bo Plaats and Nuab.

Typically a product would consist of guests arriving at Gamkab Lodge on the first day, spending the night at the lodge, receiving an orientation presentation and discussion pertaining to the Park, as well as the TFCA, focusing on the biodiversity and cultural significance of the area.

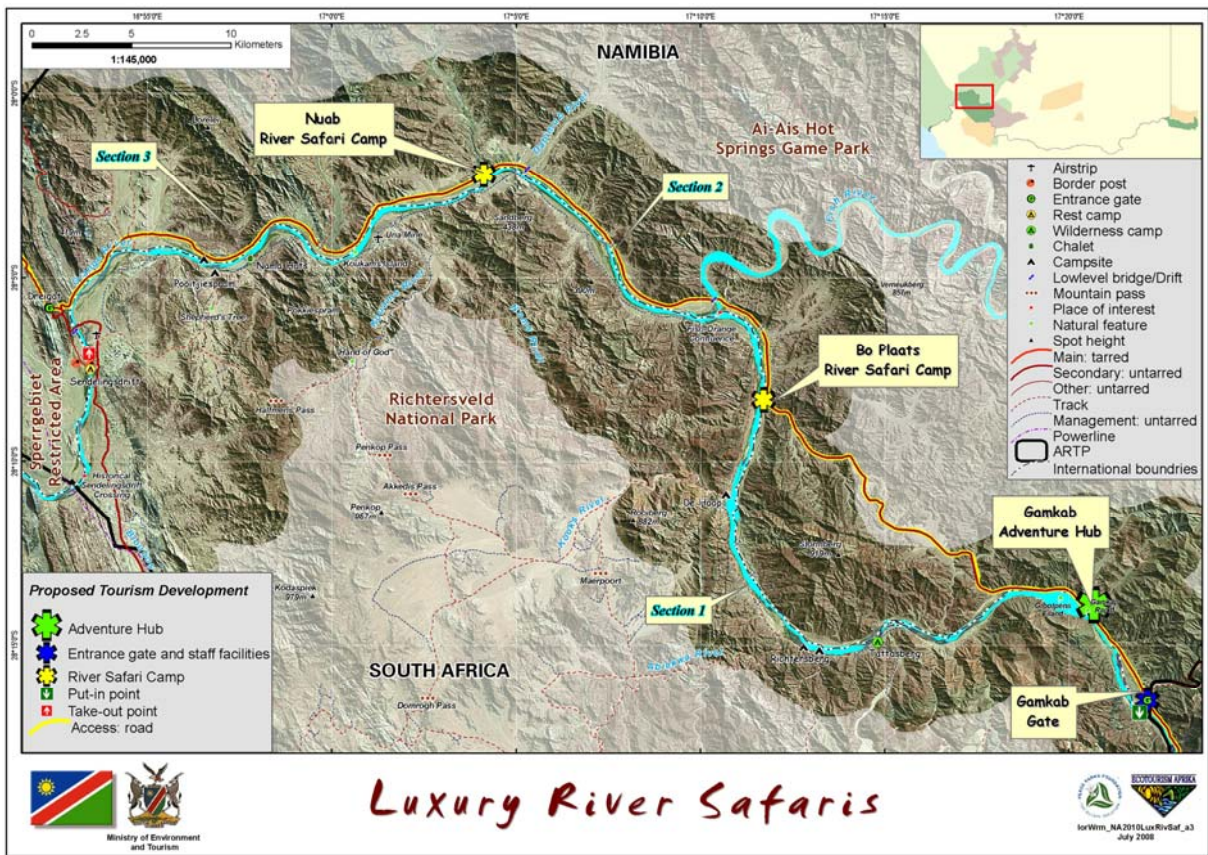
The second day would entail a safety briefing, short kayaking exercise, and a departure after breakfast at the lodge, with a short shuttle to the Gamkab Gate put-in point, followed by a paddle of 16.5km to the Tattasberg Luxury River Camp. The afternoon can be spent in camp, swimming in the river, followed by a 4x4 game drive to a scenic spot either overlooking the river, or at one of the large cliffs in one of the tributaries close to Richtersberg.

Most of the third day would be spent on the river, with regular stops for photographs, swimming, lunch, and arrival at the *Bo Plaats River Safari Camp* early in the afternoon, a total distance of 16.5km. After a short siesta, guests can be transported in game drive vehicles to a viewpoint overlooking the Orange Fish river confluence to enjoy sundowners prior to returning for dinner at the Camp.

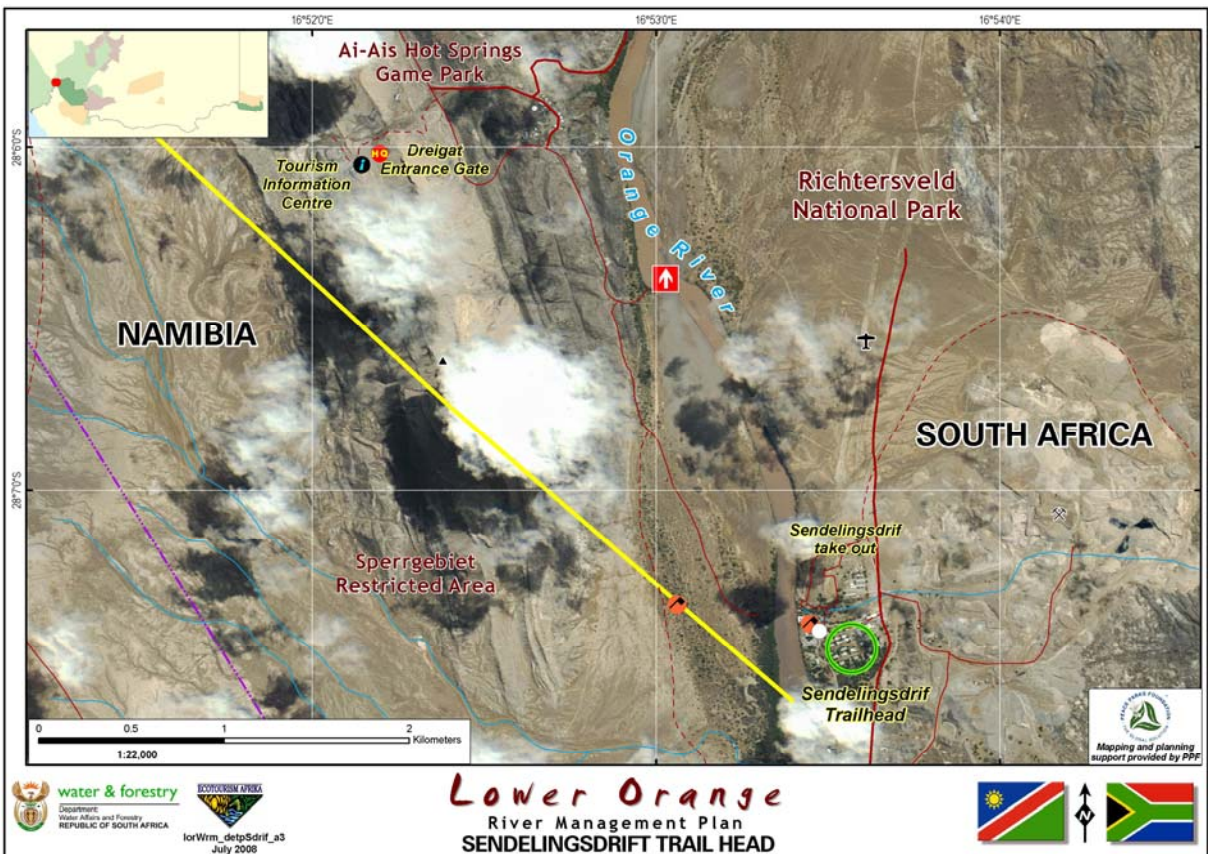
Day 4 would see a leisurely breakfast, followed by a slow paddle to the *Nuab River Safari Camp* possibly stopping for lunch along the way, followed by a rest and short excursion into the desert, possibly for a surprise bush dinner, returning to the camp early evening. The total distance on the river for the day is 18km.

The final day incorporates a breakfast at the Nuab Camp, followed by paddling through several small rapids to a take out point close to Sendelingsdrift, lunch enjoyed en route, returning to the Gamkab Lodge for a relaxing evening. Alternatively guests could link onto a visit to the Sperrgebiet from this take out point. The total distance on the river is 71.5km, over 4 days.

Two 2 day Luxury river safaris from Gamkab Lodge to Bo-Plaats (33km), and from Bo-Plaats to Sendelingsdrift (44km) could also be offered as an option to top end tourists, where the guests would only use one of the two day sections of the river. (Refer Maps 101 and 102.)



Map 101: CDP, Section 10 (ARTP) - Luxury River Safaris



Map 102: CDP, Section 10 (Sendelingsdrift Trailhead)

- *Classic River Adventure Trails*

Based on existing use patterns, this section of the river could also be used for single and multi day river adventure trips out of Sendelingsdrift and Gamkab, utilising the easy access on the Namibian side. Even though river adventure products based on the adventure market involve camping, these products are compatible with the luxury River Safari trips since they can be offered to small focused groups using different time sequences to the River Safari trips, broadening the viability of this concession.

This product would require the establishment of three basic river camp sites for use by adventurous tourists. These camps can be established along the river between Gamkab and Sendelingsdrift, specifically at an area close to Tattasberg, at the Fish River Confluence, and close to the islands south of the Koukams River confluence. The impact of these camps would thus not negatively impact on the River Safaris product or guest experience.

This product can be offered to guests from either Sendelingsdrift or Gamkap, doubling the available clientele, with guests from Sendelingsdrift being picked up at the Border (Pont), negating the need for vehicle crossings, and shuttled to either the trailheads at Gamkab, Fish River Confluence, or Koukams.

This will allow for:

- One day river trips - Koukams Island to Sendelingsdrift – 17km),
- Two day river trips: Gamkab to Fish Confluence –45.5km; Fish River Confluence to Sendelingsdrift – 39km; and,
- Four Day Trips - Gamkab to Sendelingsdrift – 84.5km.

These options make this river section extremely attractive due to the increased economic viability of available adventure options.

Linking the Luxury River Safaris with the Classic Adventure Trail options, and keeping this as a single concession will increase the attractiveness of this concession tremendously, since the risks associated with the higher risk luxury market will be offset against the adventure market with a proven track record. (Refer Map 103.)

- *Motorised Charter Trips*

The long, slow flowing pools along the river from the Fish River Confluence to Sendelingsdrift also afford the possibility for motorised guided trips, either from the Gamkab Adventure Hub, or from a fishing Safari Camp along the river, possibly close to the Nuab River confluence.

This product has not been offered along this portion of the Orange River, yet due to the size of the angling and birding industry, growth within sectors such as fly fishing and birding, linked to the beauty of the area, motorised charter trips should be an option. Examples abound along many of Africa's great rivers – Chobe, Zambezi, Okavango – and it is believed that a product which focuses on the endemic bird species, and specific fish species such as yellow fish, as well as other species of the LOR, and these charters should provide a viable option for a concessionaire.

Motorised Birding and Fishing Safaris, linked with desert excursions, and rafting and kayaking, of various length ranging from single day to multiple days can be offered, utilising approximately 38km of river between De Hoop and Pootjiespram (Refer Map 104.)



Map 103: CDP, Section 10 (ARTP) - River Adventure Trails



Map 104: CDP, Section 10 (ARTP) - Fishing Charters

- *Tourism Facility Requirements*

Tourism facilities required for this river section would be (refer Maps 105-111):

- Gamkab Lodge (12 – 16 pax);
- Service Hub (Gamkab);
- Gamkab chalets and campsite;
- Two luxury River Safari Camps (12 – 16 pax) – (Bo Plaats and Nuab);
- Fishing Charter Camp (Nuab); and,
- 2 River adventure camps (Fish River Confluence and Koukams Island).

Training for staff will need to be provided by the rafting and kayaking industry, hospitality industry and the fishing charter industry, while equipment such as rafts, kayaks, game drive vehicles, shuttle vehicles, flat bottomed fishing boats etc., must be sourced and supplied by the operator.

Figure 30 illustrates examples of vernacular architecture for the arid cluster TFCAs which could form the architectural guidelines for the requisite tourism infrastructure.

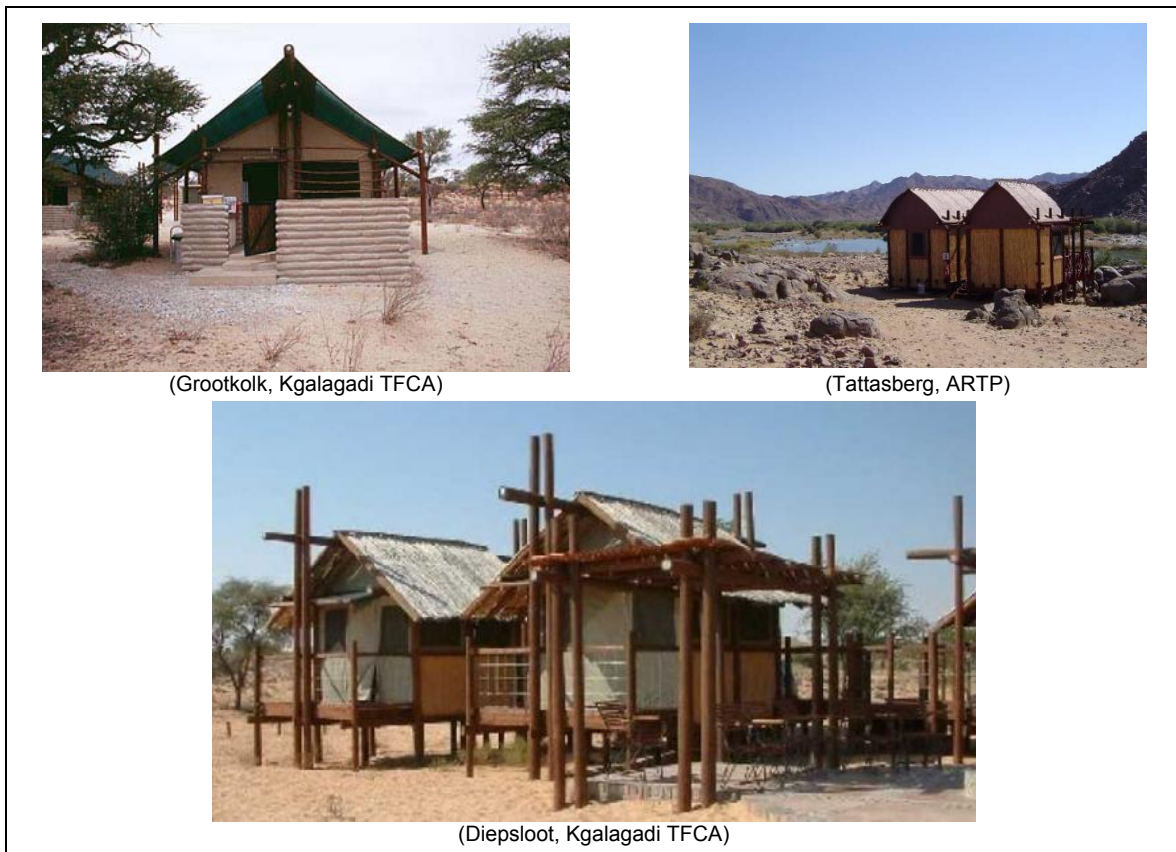
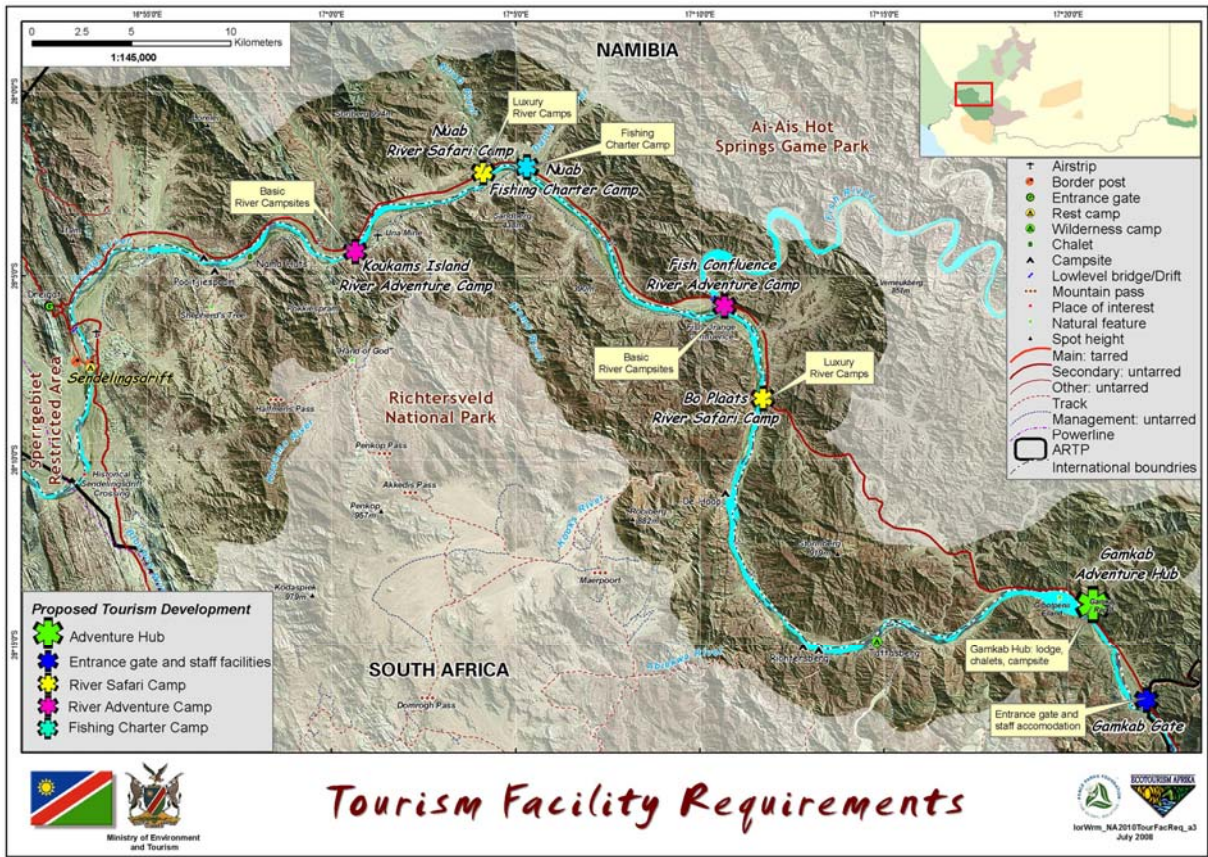


Figure 30: Examples of Local Vernacular Architecture



Map 105: CDP, Section 10 (ARTP) - Tourism Facility Requirements



Map 106: CDP, Section 10 (Gamkab Adventure Hub)



Map 107: CDP, Section 10 (Tattasberg Luxury River Camp and Camp Site)



Map 108: CDP, Section 10 (Boplaats Luxury Camp)



Map 109: CDP, Section 10 (Nuab Luxury River and Charter Camp)



Map 110: CDP, Section 10 (Fish Confluence Wilderness Camp Site)



Map 111: CDP, Section 10 (Koukams Wilderness Camp Site)

- *Supporting Infrastructure Requirements*

Supporting infrastructure required for this portion of the river includes (refer Maps 112 and 113):

- Gamkab Entrance Gate (Staff accommodation);
- Fish River Bridge upgrade;
- Road maintenance and upgrade (possible re-alignment);
- Dreigat Tourism Information Centre; and,
- Park Management Headquarters (Dreigat).

The design and architecture of the supporting infrastructure will be based on the designs that have been used within the Arid TFCA Cluster, specifically at the Mata Mata Entrance Gate.

Below Table 10 summarises the daily distances for the four day river safari, as well as the individual distances for shorter river trips:

Table 10: River Distances, Section 12 (ARTP)

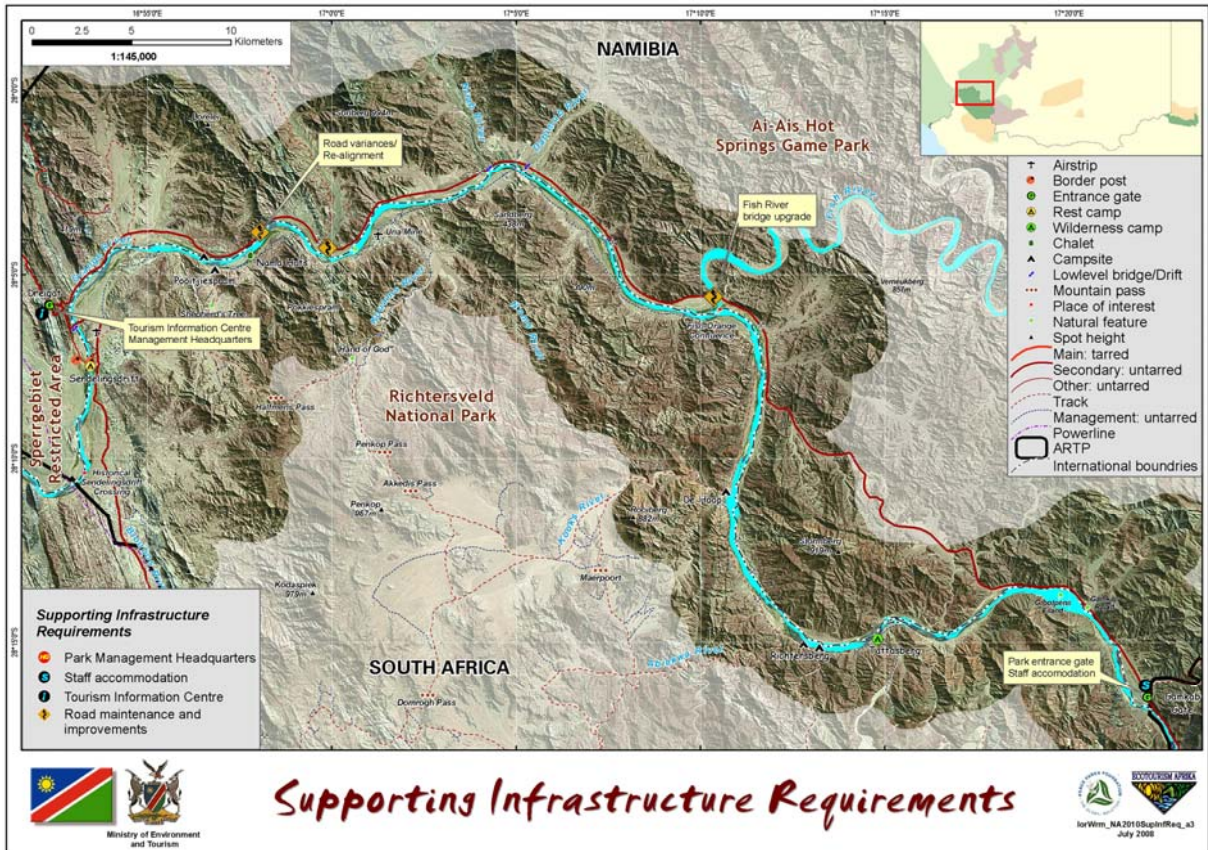
| Section | Product | Activity | From | To | Km | Total distance |
|---------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|
| 10 | a. Four day river safari | Rafting | Gamkab Gate | Gamkab Hub | 5.50 | 84.50 |
| | | | Gamkab Hub | Tatasberg area | 20.00 | |
| | | | Tatasberg area | Fish Confluence | 20.00 | |
| | | | Fish Confluence | Koukams | 22.00 | |
| | | | Koukams | Sendelingsdrift | 17.00 | |
| 10 | b. Four day luxury safari | Rafting | Gamkab Hub | Tattasberg Restcamp | 11.00 | 71.50 |

| Section | Product | Activity | From | To | Km | Total distance |
|---------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------|
| | | | Tattasberg Restcamp | Boplaats | 16.50 | |
| | | | Boplaats | Nuab | 18.00 | |
| | | | Nuab | Sendelingsdrift | 26.00 | |
| 10 | c. Fishing Charters | Fishing | Upstream | De Hoop | 23.00 | 38.50 |
| | | | Downstream | Pooitjiespram | 15.50 | |

4.3.10.4 Requisite Actions

The following actions are required to ensure that the CDP for this river section can be achieved:

- Discussions between the Richtersveld CPA and Namibian Government as landowners regarding access to and use of land and existing facilities for the requisite developments e.g. Adventure Hub at Gamkab; Luxury River safari camps at Tattasberg, Bo-Plaats; and Nuab, wilderness camp sites along the river, and Charter Camp etc;
- Develop Gamkab Gate as a control measure for the southern portion of the /Ai/Ais Hot Springs Game Park;
- Restrict access at Gamkab Gate;
- Packaging of this river section components as one concession in terms of MET’s Concessioning Policy;
- Include this river section’s CDP in the ARTP tourism development planning process; and,
- Conclude a revenue sharing agreement with the relevant property owners.



Map 112: CDP, Section 10 (ARTP) - Supporting Infrastructure Requirements



4.3.11 River Section 11 (Sperrgebiet)

4.3.11.1 Integrated Concept Proposal

Recognising the difficulties associated with access to the Sperrgebiet, and the need for the involvement of the Richtersveld Community, specifically the Sanddrift Community, in tourism development and operation, it is recommended that the existing tourism facilities at Stofbakkies and Brandkaros serve as the base for guided river trips, aimed at interpreting the rich cultural heritage, as well as birdlife of the area.

Various markets can be targeted by these two sites, yet the camping market should be targeted for Brandkaros, whereas a niche market of single groups, or lodge style guests can be targeted. This differentiation in markets will reduce competition and focus marketing efforts.

Approximately 90km of river would be available for river trips, and it is recommended that flat bottomed aluminium boats be used to transport guests on these trips.

The facilities at Stofbakkies will need some redesign to accommodate the change in market from self catered chalets to fully catered, guided facilities along the Orange River overlooking the Sperrgebiet. This can be done as a CPPP, with the community accessing finance for the redevelopment, or placing the responsibility of redevelopment on the private sector operator. However, the former option increases the equity share of the community, and immediately increases the viability of the concession.

The river guides should be trained to interpret this river section, as well as the uniqueness of the Sperrgebiet, from a biodiversity, ecological and geological perspective. (Refer Figure 31.)

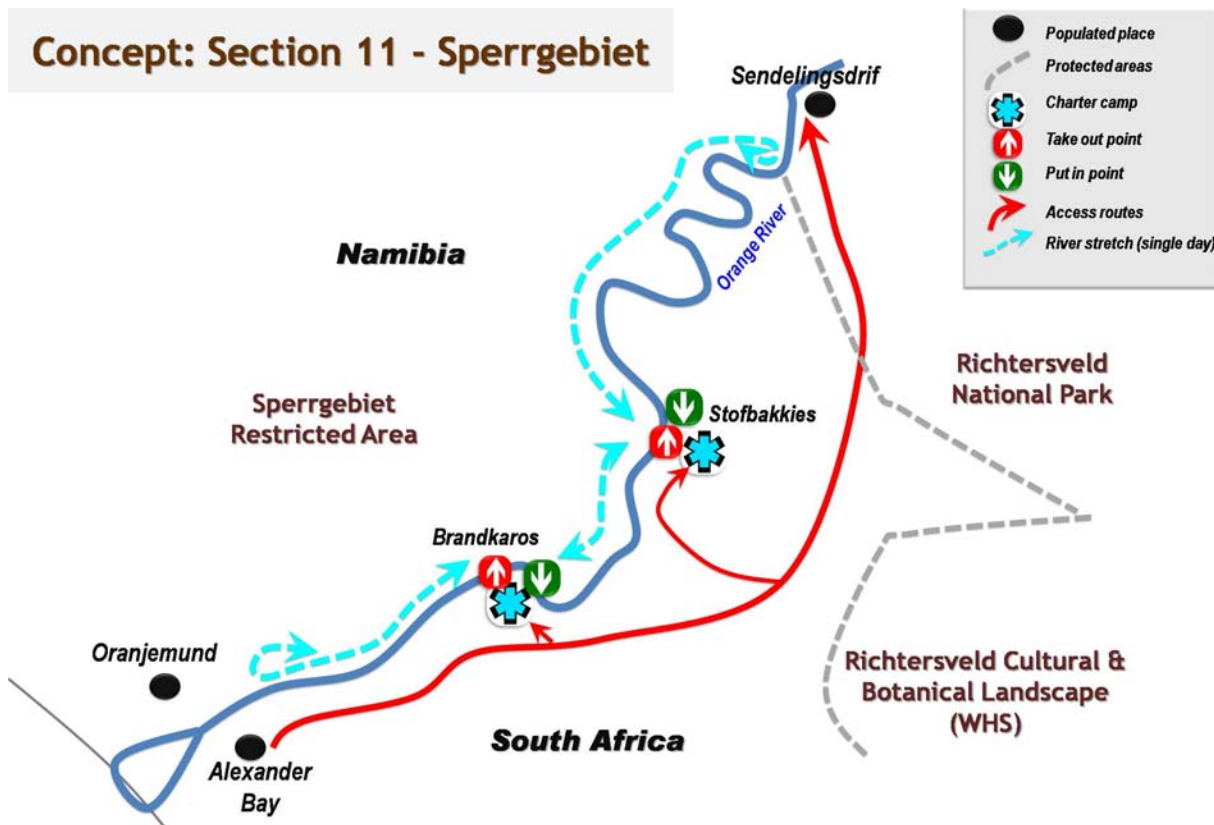


Figure 31: Integrated Concept Proposal, Section 11 (Sperrgebiet)