

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Waste Enforcement & Permit Division

Environment Assessment and Permit Section

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Please address all correspondence to the Principal Secretary

Ref: WEP/EAPS/Class
1/02/2024

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Date: 15th April 2024

Mr Norman Weber
CEO
Island Conservation Society
Pointe Larue
Seychelles

Attn.: Mr Gregory Berke, Director Conservation & Science



Dear Sir,

RE: SCOPING REPORT FEEDBACK AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EIA REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ON ASSOMPTION ISLAND

Reference is made to the scoping report submitted on 27th March 2024. Following the review of the report, the Department of Environment has the following comments:

1. Further consultation is required with the Immigration Department, Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC), and Seychelles National Institute of Culture Heritage and the Arts. Please ensure that these consultations are included in the EIA report.
2. With regards to the key components/utilities to be provided by the Island Development Company (IDC), details should be provided in the EIA. This should include the potential impacts of providing these utilities and alternative methods of providing utilities.
3. The Department would like to clarify that although the outline application submitted to the Seychelles Planning Authority was approved no environment authorisation was issued for this application and to date no environment authorisation has been issued for the proposed tourism development.
4. The Department acknowledges the findings in the scoping report which shows that Assomption has many important ecological habitats and species. The department supports the recommendations set out in the scoping report and therefore, the developer should scale down the development (number of villas and restaurants).
5. Furthermore, the Department agrees with the necessity to carry out additional surveys of the biodiversity on the island and to collect at least 1 year of monitoring data prior to construction. Please provide the timeline for the proposed monitoring.
6. The Department is currently not in favour of introducing horses to the island and agrees with the potential risks as stated in the scoping report.
7. The developer is advised to scale down its proposal along the west beach, which is an important nesting site for green turtles and to limit development along this beach to ensure that a significant

portion of this beach remains undeveloped and protected. This will ensure that there undisturbed areas for nesting sea turtles.

8. The developer should use only the existing jetty and make any necessary improvements to it as is necessary.
9. Following the findings of surveys carried out and covered in the scoping report, a minimum set back of 40m from the high water mark shall apply to all proposals along the beach/coastal front.
10. Furthermore, the developer should consider further set backs from the high water mark for the other buildings along the west beach which is an important nesting site for sea turtles.
11. No dune activities will be permitted and ensure that the wellness centre is setback sufficiently from the dune to prevent any impacts on habitats there and to minimise erosion/deterioration of the sand dunes.
12. The Department is strongly in favour of the recommendation to minimise the development footprint and for Assomption to be developed as an eco-destination. The developer is advised to consider an eco-resort as an alternative to the current proposed development, taking into consideration the recommendations made by the EIA consultant.

Therefore, the Department of Environment hereby submits the Terms of Reference for the Environment Assessment Study (see attached). The TOR, together with the comments above and those submitted by stakeholders, should be consulted when carrying out the EIA.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Environment Assessment and Permits Section for further clarification.

Please note that the Terms of Reference for the EIA for the proposed tourism development on Assomption does not indicate approval or support in any way, nor does it indicate approval in principle. Therefore, no construction materials or workers for the proposed development should be brought to the island without the completion of the EIA and approved biosecurity protocols in place. No resources should be removed from Assomption, and no site clearing should be carried out until completion of the EIA.

Yours Sincerely,



Nanette Laure (Mrs.)

DIRECTOR GENERAL (WEP)

cc: CEO Planning Authority
Jad Rizk - IDCC