

Constitution of the Maruleng Tourism Association (MTA)

Preamble

We, the members of the Maruleng Tourism Association (hereinafter referred to as "the Association"), in recognition of the importance of tourism as an engine for socio-economic development in the greater Maruleng / Hoedspruit region, and in the spirit of unity, cooperation, and sustainable development, hereby adopt this Constitution to govern our activities, guide our operations, and promote tourism in the region.

Article I: Name and Legal Status

1. **Name:** The name of the Association shall be the "Maruleng Tourism Association" (MTA), hereafter referred to as the "Association".
2. **Legal Status:** The Association shall be a non-profit company and a legal entity with the capacity to enter into contracts, own property, and perform activities in accordance with the law.

Article II: Mission and Objectives

1. **Mission:** The mission of the Maruleng Tourism Association is to promote and develop sustainable tourism within the greater Maruleng / Hoedspruit region, enhancing the economic, environmental, and cultural welfare of the community. For marketing purposes, the region will be known as **Destination Hoedspruit**.
2. **Objectives:**
 - To encourage and support the growth of the tourism sector in the greater Maruleng / Hoedspruit region
 - To facilitate collaboration between local businesses, government entities, and other stakeholders.
 - To develop and implement tourism marketing strategies that promote Maruleng / Hoedspruit as a premier tourist destination.
 - To advocate for policies that support sustainable tourism and the protection of natural and cultural heritage.
 - To provide training, capacity-building, and support for members of the tourism industry.
 - To foster community participation in tourism-related activities.
 - To monitor the impacts of tourism on the local environment and communities and ensure responsible and ethical tourism practices.

Article III: Membership

1. **Eligibility:** Membership in the Association shall be open to all individuals, businesses, and organisations involved in the tourism and allied industries operating

within in the Maruleng region. This includes, but is not limited to, tour operators, accommodation providers, cultural organizations, local artisans, transport companies, restaurants, and conservation organisations.

2. Types of Membership:

- **Individual Membership:** For individual tourism service providers or stakeholders.
- **Business Membership:** For tourism-related businesses operating within the region.
- **Organizational Membership:** For non-profit organizations, governmental bodies, or other stakeholders.

3. Admission: Membership shall be granted upon the submission of a completed application form and payment of the appropriate membership fee.

4. Rights and Responsibilities of Members:

- Members have the right to participate in the activities and decision-making processes of the Association.
- Members are required to adhere to the principles and objectives of the Association and pay membership fees as determined by the Board of Directors

5. Termination of Membership:

- Membership may be terminated voluntarily by the member at any time.
- Membership may be revoked by the Board of Directors for non-compliance with the Constitution, bylaws, or failure to pay dues.

Article IV: Governance

1. Members:

- The Members shall be the supreme decision-making body of the Association, consisting of all members in good standing.
- The Members shall meet at least once annually and may meet more frequently as necessary.
- A quorum for the Members shall consist of a simple majority of members in good standing.
- Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.

2. Board of Directors:

- The Board of Directors shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the Association and ensure that its objectives are met.
- The Board of Directors shall consist of the following positions:
 - **Chairperson:** The Chairperson shall preside over meetings and represent the Association in external matters.
 - **Vice-Chairperson:** The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson and act in their absence.

- **Secretary:** The Secretary shall be responsible for record-keeping, correspondence, and the preparation of meeting agendas and minutes.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall manage the financial affairs of the Association, including overseeing membership fees, budgeting, and financial reporting.
- **Committee Members:** The Committee may include additional members as necessary to represent the interests of various sectors within the tourism industry.

3. Election of Board of Directors:

- The Board of Directors members shall be elected by the Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Nominations for Board of Directors positions shall be submitted in advance of the AGM, and elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- The term of office for Board of Directors members shall be two years, with the option for re-election.

4. Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors:

- The Board of Directors shall have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Association, subject to the approval of the Members.
- It shall prepare and submit an annual report, including financial statements, to the Members.
- The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the implementation of programs, activities, and strategic initiatives that align with the Association's mission and objectives.
- The Board of Directors shall ensure that the Association complies with all legal and regulatory requirements.

Article V: Financial Management

1. Sources of Funding:

- The funds of the Association shall be derived from membership fees, donations, grants, fundraising activities, and other lawful sources.
- The amount of membership fees shall be determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the Members.

2. Financial Oversight:

- The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining accurate financial records.
- An independent auditor shall be appointed annually to review the financial records of the Association and report to the Members.

3. Use of Funds:

- The funds of the Association shall be used solely for the promotion of the objectives of the Association, including but not limited to destination marketing, community development, and capacity-building programs.

Article VI: Meetings

1. Annual General Meeting (AGM):

- The AGM shall be held once a year, at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors.
- At the AGM, members shall receive reports on the activities of the Association, financial statements, and any other relevant matters.
- Members shall have the opportunity to ask questions, make proposals, and vote on key issues.

2. Special Meetings:

- Special meetings of the Members may be called by the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by at least 20% of the members in good standing.

3. Board of Directors Meetings:

- The Board of Directors shall meet regularly to manage the activities of the Association.
- Board of Directors meetings shall be open to all members, although voting rights are reserved for Directors.

Article VII: Amendments

1. Proposal of Amendments:

- Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by at least 20% of the members in good standing.

2. Approval of Amendments:

- Amendments shall be adopted if approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Members present at a duly convened meeting.

Article VIII: Dissolution

1. Dissolution:

- The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the Members at a meeting convened for that purpose.
- Upon dissolution, any remaining assets of the Association shall be distributed to a non-profit organization with similar objectives, as determined by the Members.

Article IX: Miscellaneous

1. Interpretation:

- Any questions arising regarding the interpretation of this Constitution shall be resolved by the Board of Directors, subject to review by the Members.

2. Compliance:

- The Association shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances relevant to its operations.

Adopted by the Members

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Signed by the Board of Directors: [Insert Names of Board of Directors Members]

This Constitution serves as a foundational document for the Maruleng Tourism Association, ensuring good governance, transparency, and accountability in promoting tourism and enhancing the regional economy in the greater Maruleng / Hoedspruit region.