

SKUKUZA LODGE HOTEL

Kruger National Park, South Africa
(Protecting indigenous trees on site)

PROJECT TYPE: International graded hotel

CLIENT:
National Parks Board

PROJECT DURATION:
18 months

DATE OF PROJECT:
Feb 2017

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This hotel and its surroundings are situated in the Kruger National Park. Blending the building into the natural environment was one of the key principles of the client that Concor had to comply to. A key aspect of this was to ensure that mature and listed trees were protected throughout construction. A few aspects to ensuring these trees survived the construction included: Identifying and tagging all trees for protection.

- Barricading trees from the construction activities using snow netting at the width of the trees crown.
- Ensuring that soil compaction and grade changes around the trees were minimalized to prevent any adverse tree root health, which could lead to branch dieback and tree death.
- Involving all parties associated with the construction project when determining which trees to preserve.
- Specific guidelines to prevent tree injury during the construction project was established and communicated.
- Understanding the tree species differ in their ability to adapt to environmental change. It may be impossible to preserve every tree. Vehicular traffic or parking in these restricted areas was avoided as well as prohibiting material storage, grading, and dumping of chemicals and other materials in restricted areas

Before construction began, an on-site meeting with all parties was conducted, with special emphasis on educating all employees.

