



CONSTITUTION OF THE MARICO GETAWAY TOURISM ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Marico Getaway Tourism Association (hereinafter referred to as the “Association”), establish this constitution to guide the operations and governance of the Association, recognizing the need to promote responsible tourism and travel to our region with the emphasis on development and upliftment of our tourism establishments, activities, community and environment.

1. DEFINITIONS

In this constitution, unless otherwise required, the following words and expressions shall have the meaning assigned to them hereunder:

“MGTA”	Marico Getaway Tourism Association herein after referred to as the “Association”
“Initial Area”	The Groot Marico Town and surrounding Bushveld area
“ Greater Area”	the greater Marico region: The N4 to Swartruggens, the R509 to Koster, the R53 and R52 to Lichtenburg, the R505 to Ottoshoop, the R49 to Zeerust, the N4 to Marico, R49 to Kopfontein border (Gaborone), N4 to Pioneer Gate (Lobatse) and all the surrounding areas.
“Chairperson”	the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Association
“Vice-Chairperson”	the Vice-Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Association
“Secretary”	the Secretary of the Steering Committee of the Association
“Treasurer”	the Treasurer of the Steering Committee of the Association
“Social media & Marketing	the social media and Marketing person of the Steering Committee of the Association
“Additional Member”	an Additional Member of the Steering Committee of the Association
“Steering Committee”	the Steering Committee of the Association
“Member”	a person who is accepted as a member in terms of this constitution
“SGM”	a Special General Meeting of members of the Association
“AGM”	an Annual General Meeting of members of the Association
“The Marico Way”	the simple unchanging sense of place and culture within the Marico area that defines a unique experience through its way of life, heritage, environment, individuals and communities



2. LEGAL PERSONA AND LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

- 2.1. The Association is a legal persona which can act in its own name separate of its members and who can obtain rights and liabilities and take such legal action as may be necessary for the attainment of its objectives.
- 2.2. Any profits derived by the Association may only be appropriated for the attainment of its objectives. No member may have an interest in the assets of the Association or share in its profits.
- 2.3. No member of Steering Committee member will be personally liable for:
 - 2.1.1. any debts of the Association.
 - 2.1.2. the conduct, negligence, neglect or mistake of any other member, Steering Committee member or official of the Association or for any losses or damages resulting from such conducts.
 - 2.1.3. any expenses incurred or losses suffered because of the defective title of an asset obtained for the Association upon instruction of the Steering Committee.
 - 2.1.4. any other loss or damages which may be suffered because of the normal functioning or normal executing of his / her duties unless this happens as a result of fraud.

3. NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, AND LEGAL STATUS

3.1. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the **Marico Getaway Tourism Association**, hereinafter referred to as the "Association."

3.2. REGISTERED OFFICE

The Association shall have its registered office at PTN 77, Koedoesfontein 291 JP, Groot Marico, 2850 and may establish other offices in such other locations as the Steering Committee may determine.

3.3. LEGAL STATUS

The Association shall be a non-governmental, politically neutral, non-profit, and non-partisan organization. It shall operate independently and in accordance with the laws of South Africa.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- 4.1. To publicise and promote responsible-tourism and travel to our initial and greater areas across as many media platforms as possible on behalf of its members
- 4.2. To position the Marico Getaway Region as a premier national and global travel destination for guest accommodation, activities, functions, restaurants, products and service enquiries
- 4.3. To promote platforms for networking, education and sharing of best practice to its members
- 4.4. To promote the referral of business between its members
- 4.5. To establish set levels of quality guest offerings on initial membership applications and then to review annually through Executive/Grading Committee.



- 4.6. To encourage and educate all members and guests, where possible, to participate in responsible tourism and eco-friendly practices to protect our biodiversity, and preserve eco-sensitive regions, culture and heritage.
- 4.7. To ensure The Marico Way always remains a consistent and integral part of the Associations objectives.
- 4.8. To work in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations to advocate for policies that support eco-tourism and conservation.

5 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 ELIGIBILITY

Membership in the Association shall be open to individuals, organizations, and businesses interested in furthering the objectives of the Association.

Membership categories may include:

- 5.1.1 Individual Members – Persons who support the objectives of the Association.
- 5.1.2 Corporate Members – Companies or organizations involved in eco-tourism or environmental conservation.
- 5.1.3 Honorary Members – Individuals or entities who have made significant contributions to eco-tourism, environmental and community sustainability.

5.2 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Applications for membership shall be made in writing to the Secretary, and the Steering Committee shall review and approve or reject membership applications. Potential members shall complete a membership application form with the requested information for review, approval and data base compilation.

5.3 RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

- 5.3.1 Paid up Members have the right to attend all general meetings, vote, and participate in the activities of the Association.
- 5.3.2 Members shall be required to abide by the constitution, rules, and regulations of the Association.
- 5.3.3 Members shall pay annual membership fees, which shall be determined by the General Assembly at the AGM.
- 5.3.4 Every Member shall have one vote at meetings which may be cast by way of a Member himself, nominated representative or proxy vote.

6 MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

- 6.1 Communication on all media platforms should always be respectful and considerate of other members and non-members.



- 6.2 No topics unrelated to tourism, no politics, religion, spam, racism, arguments and / or debates between members will be allowed.
- 6.3 Any aggrieved member must put their grievances in writing and address to the secretary via email.
- 6.4 Members will adhere to the rules of any group or platform of the Association
- 6.5 Any member not adhering to the code of conduct will be removed immediately from the group or platform without prior notice.

7 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be terminated if a member:

- 7.1 Resigns by giving written notice to the Secretary.
- 7.2 Fails to pay membership fees by the 31st of March annually.
- 7.3 Is expelled for misconduct or activities that contradict the objectives of the Association, subject to a fair hearing by the Steering Committee.

8 MEMBERSHIP FEES

- 8.1 Any increase in registration and membership fees or charges for services must be decided at an annual General meeting, and if not must be decided at a special General meeting called for this purpose.
- 8.2 Annual membership fees must be paid between the 1st of March and the 31st of March of every year.
- 8.3 Annual membership fees.

8.3.1 New member: R500.00 once off joining fee plus annual fee. Persons that were not a member the previous year or have not maintained their annual membership fee will be treated as a new member.

8.3.2 Annual fee: members renewing membership: R960.00 per annum.

8.3.3 The Steering Committee may exempt any member from the payment of fees and charges and accord him/her full membership status.

8.3.4 Membership fees for year 1, will be put towards the following awareness campaigns and advertising:

8.3.4.1 Advertising on digital media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and X

8.3.4.2 Development and showcasing member establishments / activities on maricogetaway.co.za website.

8.3.4.3 Inclusion in influencer campaigns and endorsements

8.3.5 As funding and membership numbers increase, the following advertising and awareness campaigns will also be utilised.



8.3.5.1 Magazine Advertorials where funding allows.

8.3.5.2 Advertising on regional maps, posters, signage, tourism trade shows and local events

8.3.5.3 Educational Workshops and internal Grading/Minimum Standards Council

9 QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

9.4 Any reputable guest lodge/restaurant in the area providing accommodation, facilities, and/or catering to paying guests that meets the Associations minimum standards.

9.5 Any reputable activity, services and or products that are beneficial to our members/guests that meets the Associations minimum standards.

10 GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

10.1 Governing Bodies

The governing bodies of the Association shall be:

10.1.1 General Assembly (all members/stakeholders)

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the Association, consisting of all members.

It shall meet at least once a year to review the activities of the Association, approve financial statements, and elect the Steering Committee at the AGM.

Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of members present, except for constitutional amendments, which require a two-thirds majority.

10.1.2 Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the Association. It shall consist of the following:

10.2.1.1. Chairperson– Represents the Association and presides over all meetings.

10.2.1.2. Vice-Chairperson – Assists the Chairman and assumes duties in the absence of the Chairman.

10.2.1.3. Secretary – Responsible for maintaining records, organizing meetings, and handling correspondence.

10.2.1.4. Treasurer – Manages the finances of the Association, including, accounts, and financial reporting. (Budgets to be set up and approved by full Steering Committee)

10.2.1.5. Social media & Marketing – Manages social media, marketing and website on behalf of the Association



10.2.1.6. Additional Members – Work alongside to assist and support the Steering Committee.

11. ADVISORY BOARD

The Association may establish an Advisory Board consisting of experts and leaders in eco-tourism, environmental conservation, and related fields to provide strategic guidance and support.

12. ELECTION OF STEERING COMMITTEE

The members of the Steering Committee shall be elected by registered and paid-up Members at the AGM and shall hold office for a term of one year, with the possibility of re-election.

Any vacancy on the Steering Committee shall be filled by a vote of the Members.

13. MEETINGS

13.1. GENERAL MEETINGS

13.1.1. Annual General Meeting (AGM):

The AGM shall be held once every year on the first Wednesday of February to review the Association's activities, elect the Steering Committee, and approve financial reports.

13.1.2. Special General Meetings (SGMs):

SGMs may be called by the Chairman or at the written request of at least one-third of the members, for urgent matters requiring the attention of the General Assembly.

13.1.3. Steering Committee Meetings

The Steering Committee shall meet at least quarterly to review progress, approve new projects, and ensure the proper functioning of the Association. Meetings may be conducted in person or via electronic means.

14. QUOROM

14.1. A quorum for the General Association shall be at least one-third of the registered paid-up members.

14.2. A quorum for Steering Committee meetings shall be half of its members.

15. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

15.1. SOURCES OF FUNDING

The Association shall derive its funds from:

15.1.1. Membership fees.

15.1.2. Donations, grants, and sponsorships.

15.1.3. Income from tourism projects, programs, fundraising events and activities.

15.1.4. Any other lawful source approved by the Steering Committee.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

15.1.5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the management of all funds, and all financial transactions shall be properly recorded.

15.1.6. An annual audit of the accounts shall be conducted by an independent auditor appointed by the General Assembly.

15.1.7. The funds of the Association shall be used solely for the attainment of the objectives of the Association.

15.2. BANKING

All funds of the Association shall be kept in a valid South African banking account in the name of the Association. The Chairperson, Treasurer, and one other officer authorized by the Steering Committee shall be the signatories to the bank account, with any two signatories required for withdrawal.

16. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

16.1. Proposals for amendments to this Constitution may be submitted by the Steering Committee or any member, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment is submitted to the Secretary at least [30] days before the AGM.

16.2. Amendments to this Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the paid-up registered members present at an Annual General Meeting.

17. DISSOLUTION

17.1. The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members at a AGM provided that notice of such a resolution is given at least 60 days before the meeting.

17.2. Upon dissolution, any remaining assets of the Association shall be donated to organizations with similar objectives, as decided by the General Assembly.

18. COMMENCEMENT

This Constitution shall come into effect immediately upon its adoption by the General Assembly of the Marico Getaway Tourism Association.

Adopted and ratified on 12 February 2025 by the General Assembly of the Marico Getaway Tourism Association.