

9 June 2025

To whom it may concern,

CONFIRMATION LETTER - FIELDWORKER EXPERIENCE

Research is necessary to ensure that the tourism industry remains one of the key economic drivers in South Africa. The tourism research entity at the North-West University, Tourism Research in Economics, Environs and Society (TREES), has been in existence for over 20 years. The Unit forms part of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at North-West University. With tourism growing in importance in South Africa, we are relevant with the type of studies we conduct and the quality thereof. Our research focus aligns with the goals and objectives of the National and Provincial departments by analysing economic, environmental and community (society) issues. Our contribution to the private sector is especially noteworthy, as it guides decisions and provides strategic direction for tourism products. We also adapt themes and focuses as necessary to address the specific needs of the industry and/or scholarly communities.

To support the industry, TREES conducts various quantitative surveys across South Africa and neighbouring countries. These consist of destination-based and self-administered paper-based surveys to determine consumer profiles, needs, and preferences of tourism product consumers. The research is valuable in detecting market trends and adapting product and marketing offerings accordingly. The quality and success of these surveys depend on our fieldworkers, who are undergraduate and post-graduate students. These students are trained to conduct research ethically and rigorously to obtain a representative sample. The surveys provide students, including those from other institutions, with invaluable exposure to the industry and the research process, enhancing their communication and networking skills.

I confirm that the following students participated in the **MTN Bushfire 2025** research survey, conducted from May 30 to June 1, 2025, in Eswatini.

Bathobile Wenzweyinkhosi Ngubeni
Makepeace Banele Zulu
Bhekiwe Sindiswa Dlamini
Melinda Siniketiwe Kelly
Ndumiso Celimpilo Sisekelo Shongwe

Siphelele Sikhumbuzo Kunene
Vuyo Sisekelo Ngcamphalala
Siphosethu Siphamandla Ngwenya
Mbali Sekwanele Mthethwa
Fezile Nicole Mthupha

Throughout the project, the student fieldworkers consistently demonstrated a high level of professionalism, dedication, and reliability. They consistently performed their duties with diligence, adhered to ethical research standards, and displayed excellent interpersonal skills when engaging with survey participants. Their ability to work under pressure, manage time effectively, and adapt to field conditions contributed significantly to the successful completion of the data collection phase.

Based on their outstanding work ethic and positive attitude throughout the research process, I can confidently recommend these students for future research-related opportunities without reservation. Their contribution was invaluable, and they would be a strong asset to any team or project requiring commitment, integrity, and attention to detail.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Martinette Kruger
Survey facilitator