

# MINUTES

eThekwini Biodiversity Forum

17 May 2012

9h00 – 12h00

Paradise Valley Nature Reserve



## PRESENT

Aarnia van Vuuren	AV	Jabulani Khoza	JK	Nomafu Dlamini	ND
Avrille Coen	AC	Jean Lindsay	JL	Olwen Cranstow	OC
Barry Lang	BL	Jo Boulle	JB	Vuyiswa Radebe-Thabethe	VR
Basheshile Thusi	BT	Kate Richardson	KR	Rashieda Davids	RD
Bryan Ashe	BA	Kevin Collett	KC	Richard Boon	RB
Bheka Nxele	BN	Katherine Terblanche	KT	Richard Lundie	RL
Derrek Ruiters	DR	Lesley Frescura	LF	Rodney Bartholomew	RB1
Di Higginson	DH	Lettie Coskey	LC	Robert Jamieson	RJ
Errol Douwes	ED	Lyle Ground	LG	Sarah Chilee	SC
Geoff Pullan	GP	Lynne Thompson	LT	Suvarna Parbhoo	SP
Gerald Clarke	GK	Lilian Develing	LD	Teddy Govender	TG
Graham Cairns	GC	Martin Clement	MC	Terry Stewart	TS
Heather Cairns	HC	Natasha Govender	NG		
Jabu Sithole	JS	Nick Liebenberg	NL		

## APOLOGIES

Janet gates, Duane Constance, Margaret Burger, Reshnee Lalla, Leigh R. Richards

1.	WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	ACTION
1.1	NG welcomed all and facilitated introductions.	
2	PRESENTATION – EZEMVELO KZN Wildlife Restructuring	
2.1	<p>Roger Uys presented the restructuring of the Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife (EKZNW) regions but noted; however, that the realignment was not yet finalised. RU noted that EKZNW is composed of three main spheres as listed below, with an Administration function serving all three spheres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>People and conservation:</b> Including Terrestrial Nature Conservation Officers and Hunting &amp; Permits; KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Program</li> <li>• <b>Protected Areas:</b> Including Conservation Management; Community Conservation; Camp Managers and Marine Nature Conservation Officers</li> <li>• <b>Scientific Services:</b> Including Biodiversity Research &amp; Assessment; Biodiversity Information &amp; Dissemination; Ecological Advice; Social Research &amp; Assessment and Land Use Planning &amp; Integrated Environmental Management.</li> </ul> <p>RU added that there is a Protected Area programme in place where EKZNW secures land adjacent to protected areas. Scientific services provide specialist services for conservation planning in order to stem habitat loss. This division also develops the Systematic Conservation Plan.</p>	

2.2	<p>RU provided the following contact details:</p> <p>District Conservation:     Johann Vermeulen 082 931 8335 <a href="mailto:vermeulj@kznwildlife.com">vermeulj@kznwildlife.com</a></p> <p>Protected Areas:             George Nair 082 559 2855 <a href="mailto:nairg@kznwildlife.com">nairg@kznwildlife.com</a></p> <p>EcoAdvice Terrestrial:       Roger Uys 084 805 2128 <a href="mailto:uysr@kznwildlife.com">uysr@kznwildlife.com</a></p> <p>EcoAdvice Marine:           Santosh Bachoo 083 783 9612  <a href="mailto:bachoos@kznwildlife.com">bachoos@kznwildlife.com</a></p> <p>Durban Office:               031 274 1150</p>	
2.3	<p>LT mentioned that it was incredibly difficult to get through to EKZNW via the telephone. RU acknowledged that it may have been difficult to locate the correct contact person in the past; however, the restructuring will hopefully see an end to this issue. RU added that the Nature Conservation Officers have compiled lists of contacts that will be disseminated to all staff to facilitate referrals to the correct people.</p>	
2.4	<p>BA queried where policy review fits into EKZNW structure, specifically related to rhino issues. BA was interested to find out where he could submit comments on policies. RU noted that there is no single division in charge of policy and that BA could submit any input to the CEO or make submissions to political structures.</p>	
2.5	<p>VR queried whether any major changes are foreseen given that the new structure is still in draft form. RU responded that the new structure will be 99% the same as the one he presented.</p>	
2.6	<p>LF requested a list of all the areas managed by EKZNW. RU noted that the Wildside Magazine includes a map of all areas within their jurisdiction.</p>	
2.7	<p>KR mentioned that she was previously sent from one person to the next when trying to apply for permits. RU responded that all applications must be submitted to Bongani who will disseminate it to the correct people if necessary. EKZNW is currently trying to improve permitting processing speed.</p>	
2.8	<p>RD queried what EKZNW's budget for the acquisition of land surrounding protected areas was and if any has been allocated to Ethekwini Municipality. RU responded that land will be identified for acquisition in line with the SCP and conservation priorities and will not be allocated by municipality.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Nature Reserves Proclamation Process Feedback by Derrek Ruiters</b>	
3.1	<p>DR reported that there are 10 Nature Reserves that are currently going through a process to be proclaimed. All the reserves are at different stages in this process. The 11 NRs to be proclaimed are Burman Bush, Empisini, Krantzklouf, Marion Wood, New Germany, Paradise Valley, Pigeon Valley, Silverglen, Springside, Virginia Bush and Roosefontein. The Roosefontein Nature Reserve is the most advanced. The delay in the proclamation of Roosefontein was mainly due to legal issues relating to the consolidation of the properties to be proclaimed. DR noted that he is working with Vuyi Radebe of NRD and Cameron McLean of EPCPD on the proclamations process. Environmental Management Plans are being prepared for each of the 11 nature reserves being proclaimed. These EMPs will be made</p>	

	available for public comments once they have been completed.	
3.2	HC queried why the Havaan Forest Estate is still not proclaimed. DR responded that the process was largely complete; however, the landowner is yet to sign off on the final documents. This signature is required prior to the documentation being submitted to the MEC for approval. HC responded that this has been the same situation for the past three (3) years and queried if any pressure was being applied to the landowner to finalise the proclamation. DR noted that he was not personally involved in the proclamation of Havaan Forest Estate, but further information may be obtained from Greg Martindale of EKZNW. RB responded that the proclamation of Havaan Forest Estate is purely voluntary and leverage to get the landowner to finalise the process is thus limited. RB added that the land is already zoned for conservation and is protected in that way.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Updates from Natural Resources Division (NRD) by Vuyi Radebe</b>	
4.1	VR provided an update on the proposed Animal Control/Damage Causing Animal Policy being developed. She noted that in working on the policy and based on legal advice, they have identified a number of areas that need to be assessed in more detail before the Policy can be distributed for public comment.	
4.2	VR noted that there have been numerous complaints about monkeys causing problems, while at the same time some people are feeding the monkeys. The NRD has decided to “get Durban talking’ about the issue and will host a workshop on this topic around June 2012.	
4.3	VR noted that the theme “Social Cohesion” is being adopted from National Government. The NRD will host a seminar with experts in the fields of social cohesion and will review how all their facilities can be improved.	
4.4	VR noted that Southern African Plant Invaders Atlas (SAPIA) newsletters are very informative and should be distributed to all. These include details on invasive plants that people should be aware of. VR highlighted the multi-headed sunflower from the newsletter, but noted that she has not seen any in Durban as yet. All previous newsletters can be accessed via Google <a href="http://www.arc.agric.za/home.asp?pid=1&amp;toolid=2&amp;sec=1001">http://www.arc.agric.za/home.asp?pid=1&amp;toolid=2&amp;sec=1001</a> .	
4.5	Vuyi also reported that the NRD will be participating in the Cell C Take a Girl-child to Work Day. Fifty (50) learners will be hosted on 31 May 2012.	
4.6	VR reminded attendees about the opportunity to nominate people for the EThekweni Living Legends awards. She mentioned that there were no nominations in the Environment category and she had therefore arranged to extend the deadline for nominations in this category to the end of May.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Updates from Natural Science Museum (NSM) by Kristen Williams</b>	
5.1	NG reported on behalf of the NSM that the seminar series will continue on the last Wednesday of every month. Rael Hughes will present on Working on Fire 30 May 2012. International Museums Day Exhibition will be held on 18th May 2012. Brief synopsis of event: Since 1977, the worldwide museum community has celebrated International Museums Day (IMD) around the 18th May. IMD aims to focus international attention on the ever increasing role of museums in a new and constantly evolving society. The year 2012 represents the 35th anniversary of IMD and is celebrated under the theme 'Museums in a Changing World. New Challenges, New Inspirations. EThekweni Museums and KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Museum Service will have a collaborative exhibition at Churchwalk to highlight the important role of museums in today's' society. The exhibit is open to the public.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Updates from Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department</b>	
6.1	RB reported that in response to our process to include D'MOSS into the Town Planning Schemes, appellants are challenging the constitutional right of Local Government to undertake environmental work. The EPCPD has submitted an affidavit in response to the appeal and a court date will be set for early 2013.	
6.2	NG reported that RD of EPCPD is compiling an information sheet on the importance of	

	indigenous trees, in response to JL's suggestion at the previous forum.	
	<b>General</b>	
6.3	GP queried what Ethekewini Municipality is doing for our coast. RU responded that the SCP sets targets and identifies critical areas of biodiversity. The initial plan focussed on terrestrial areas; however, the latest plan looks at terrestrial, freshwater estuarine and marine environments. Catchment boundaries are now used to analyse areas, which allows for joining of terrestrial, estuarine and marine environments. EZEMVELO has identified marine protected areas, which will now be given more focus and consideration than before. GP responded that there is conflict between users of the marine environment and if some of these areas are formalised through protected areas this should be communicated to the users. RU noted that further information can be obtained from George Nair of EZEMVELO.	
6.4	It was queried how this would affect the development at Vetches. RU responded that the EZEMVELO Planning Division would be better suited to answer this; however, the Department of Environmental Affairs makes the final decision on developments.	
6.5	LD noted that there is still a problem with EThekwini pumping sewerage out to sea. She added that sewerage generated from the Tongaat development will also be pumped out to sea.	
6.6	BA mentioned that the KZN Sustainable Energy Forum will look at using oceans to generate energy and will also look at other water reuse projects.	
6.7	LD responded that generating energy at sea may have numerous impacts, including that the sand shelf builds up and collapses.	
6.8	RU noted that of greater concern is the proposed extension of the oil pipeline under sea and the proposed gas fracking in the Karoo.	
6.9	GP queried with respect to the proposed dig-out port, whether the Department of Minerals and Energy can be instructed to use the sand for other purposes including construction. RU responded that marine sand is typically not of a suitable quality for building.	
6.10	TS mentioned that there is a Sand-mining Forum where these issues may be discussed.	
6.11	JL noted that the nursery at Kirstenbosche Gardens was selling an emerging weed to the public and raised concern that there is a long way to go toward combating spread of invasive alien plants.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Meeting closure</b>	
7.1	NG thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.	