

# MINUTES

eThekwini Biodiversity Forum  
 23 February 2012  
 9h00 – 12h00  
 Paradise Valley Nature Reserve



## PRESENT

Aarnia van Vuuren	AV	Gillian Noyce	GC	Noloyiso Nkqeto	NN
Albert Mallol	AM	James Queen	JQ	Nomafu Dlamini	ND
Alistair McInnes	AM1	Jean Lindsay	JL	Nontobeko Sihlwayi	NS
Aurille Coen	AC	Jean Senogles	JS	Olwen Cranstow	OC
Barry Lang	BL	Jean Tarrant	JT	Vuyi Radebe	VR
Basheshile Thusi	BT	Johan Vermeulen	JV	Rashieda Davids	RD
Billie Prinsloo	BP	John Hink	JH	Reshnee Lalla	RL
Carlene Ridwell	CR	Kate Richardson	KR	Richard Boon	RB
Chris Methereu	KM	Khumbu Lutuli	KL	Rob Jameson	RJ
Crystelle Wilson	CW	Kirstin Williams	KW	Rodney Bartholomew	RB1
Corrine Winson	CW1	Kerina Singh	KS	Shannon Farnsworth	SF
Colette Campbell	CC	Lesley Frescura	LF	Suc Shafto	SS
David Allan	DA	Lyle Ground	LG	Suvarna Parbhoo	SP
Debbie Allan	DA2	Lilian Develing	LD	T Zondwa Msweli	TM
Deepa Seepersad	DS	Margaret Burger	MB	Terry Stewart	TS
Di Higginson	DH	Marion Spence	MS		
Fran Lewis	FL	Mark Liptrot	ML		
Geoff Pullan	GP	Martin Clement	MC		
Gerald Clarke	GK	Natasha Govender	NG		

## APOLOGIES

Ed Granger; Derrek Ruiters; George Victor; Gill Noyce; Alison Young; Sabelo Nkosi; Janet Gates; Bianca McKelvey; Roger Uys; Jo Boule; Errol Doves; Trafford Petersen; Adrian Armstrong

1.	WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	ACTION
1.1	<p>NG welcomed all and facilitated introductions. NG recapped the objectives of the forum, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing examples of good practise;</li> <li>• Expressing ideas around biodiversity;</li> <li>• Information sharing and</li> <li>• Networking.</li> </ul>	

2	<b>PRESENTATION - Durban's Dodo comes to life, by David Allan, Curator of Birds Durban Natural Science Museum</b>	
2.1	<p>David Allan provided some background to his work at the Durban Natural Science Museum, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An interesting upcoming book called <i>Roberts Geographic Variation of Southern African Birds</i>. The book will be published in the next 6 months.</li> <li>• Helping Birdlife SA to review the conservation status of vultures in South Africa. Noted that vultures (and other large birds) are particularly vulnerable to wind farms.</li> <li>• Journal produced <i>Novitates</i>, which is published annually</li> <li>• Mike Pikelbergs publication on butterflies to be out my mid-year.</li> </ul>	
2.2	<p>DA mentioned the following with respect to the dodo bird:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dodo is a giant flightless pigeon. The dodo skeleton came to the Durban Natural Science Museum 16 years ago. However, it was only during January 2012, that the dodo became of great interest.</li> <li>• The dodo occurred originally in Mauritius only.</li> <li>• Known to Arab and Malay sailors in 10<sup>th</sup> Century. Portuguese first visited in 1500s. Dutch arrived in 1598 and permanently settled in 1638. This was the first permanent settlement of humans in Mauritius.</li> <li>• It rapidly disappeared in face of human arrival, as it was hunted for food and negatively impacted by the introduction of pigs, monkeys, dogs, rats and habitat destruction. The dodo died out by 1681 at the latest, but could have died out as early as 1662.</li> <li>• Dodo appeared in the fictional book <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> in the chapter titled '<i>Caucus race</i>' in 1865, written by Louis Carol.</li> <li>• Some dodos were transported to Europe.</li> <li>• In 1885 large numbers of dodo bones were found in marsh areas.</li> <li>• DA displayed a list of museums that have dodo bird's skeletons. One skeleton in Durban and two in Mauritius museums that are near complete and these are the only two that are not from marsh material.</li> <li>• French Mauritian found dodo skeletons in a cave about a hundred years ago – Mr Ernest Chubb acquired the Durban skeleton after 6 years of negotiation. It was acquired for 40 pounds. The skeleton was remodelled by curators.</li> <li>• The dodo was the logo of the Natural Science Museum for first 80 years, which then changed to the Palmnut logo now changed to eThekweni logo.</li> </ul>	
2.3	<p>A research team from the University of Massachusetts, who are travelling around the world to study dodo skeletons, visited the Natural Science Museum. The team took 3D pictures of the skeleton which will be made available on the internet. The visit by the team was used as an opportunity to raise awareness regarding extinction. The dodo skeleton enjoyed huge media coverage in various newspapers and radio stations.</p>	
2.4	<p>It was queried whether there was any indication of the lifespan of the dodo. DA responded that as a large tropical bird, the expected lifespan may be 20 years or more. Large albatrosses can live up to 40 years.</p>	
2.5	<p>GP queried whether any DNA could be acquired from the specimen in order to date it. DA responded that it was possible; however, one would have to drill into the bones of the skeleton, which would be destructive sampling. There would be a 50/50 chance of damaging the skeleton. However, this possibility may be considered later if there is a request in the future. The longer the wait, the more efficiently it may be done through technological advancements.</p>	

3	PRESENTATION – eThekweni Municipality Systematic Conservation Plan by Alistair McInnes	
3.1	AM1 noted that the production of a Systematic Conservation Plan (SCP) is a collaborative process which includes the cooperation of a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Its preparation involves the use of existing biodiversity information, including surrogate information, as well as information on the ecological processes that sustain this biodiversity and the ‘costs and opportunities’ that potentially threaten or support its existence. Based on this information, areas are prioritised according to explicit goals or targets. Information coming from this assessment process may then be used to identify priority areas for environmental action. The SCP still has to go through official channels to get it endorsed.	
3.2	AM1 described the long history of the Durban Metropolitan System (D’MOSS) in eThekweni Municipality (EM), that goes back to a time when Wildlife Society and EM planners etc., were involved. Up to 2008, mapping and planning methods were purely based on expert based approached. Since then, the EPCPD recognised the need to upscale the methodology to be in line with legislated plans.	
3.3	<p>The development of an SCP has six key stages (Margules &amp; Pressey 2000):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compile data on the biodiversity of the planning region – gather existing data (including localities of rare and threatened species, vegetation types, etc.), undergo quality assessment (filter), identify suitable surrogates, collect supplementary data.</li> <li>2. Identify conservation goals for the planning region – quantitative targets for biodiversity features and processes including qualitative targets (e.g. from land class condition assessments).</li> <li>3. Review existing conservation areas – assess to what extent targets have already been met by existing conservation areas and identify factors that threaten biodiversity features and processes that are not yet represented.</li> <li>4. Select additional conservation areas – through the use of reserve-selection algorithms (e.g. MARXAN, C-Plan, etc.).</li> <li>5. Implement environmental actions.</li> <li>6. Maintain the required values of conservation areas.</li> </ol> <p>The SCP approach is currently recognised by national and provincial environmental authorities as the accepted methodology for the prioritisation of areas for biodiversity protection in South Africa (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism 2009).</p>	
3.4	AM noted that he specifically was involved with the terrestrial component of the SCP. Looked fine-scale selection criteria and workshopped with specialists to come up with average records of species. Records may be biased, favouring certain taxonomic groups over others e.g., plants and birds have more coverage than others. This is the first iteration of the SCP and so looking to increase these records over time.	
3.5	Durban shown to be highly impacted by human land uses. Three vegetation types have been transformed beyond their thresholds, namely, KZN Sandstone Sourveld, North Coast and South Coast Grassland. North Coast and South Coast Grassland have recently been classified as critically endangered. Most of the remaining fragments are degraded.	
3.6	Areas that fulfil process requirements are also considered in the SCP. Fragments cannot maintain themselves without linkages on the landscape, e.g. corridors, migrations, riparian corridors for water and moving between patches. 100m corridors were used on the major rivers that connect the major patches of natural and semi-natural habitats. Looked at processes, size, shape and proximity to other patches. Identified 11 key forest clusters to be prioritised.	
3.7	The impacts of threats were also considered in the SCP. Examples of threats include a risk of transformation (zoning), informal settlement, agriculture, roads and rail, death traps / population sinks, utility and service lines, biological resource use, lack of management, alien	

	invasive species Sections of areas that have limited threats are shown in the SCP to be of higher value.	
3.8	AM1 mentioned the report will be available soon for people to review. The extent of D'MOSS is now at 95000 ha and was previously 75000 ha. AM1 noted that the SCP is aligned with EKZN Wildlife's Plans. For this reason, the methodology in critical biodiversity areas (CBA) map of KZN Wildlife was adopted in the SCP.	
3.9	LD mentioned that there will be a farmers market meeting tomorrow to discuss the floodplains. Noted that the extent of the 100 year floodplain seems unrealistic, as it would preclude any development. AM1 responded that the mapping of the floodplain was undertaken by a separate department and was likely done by engineers who use modelling data. It might be found that the mapping needs to be redone.  LD further noted that dassies seem to be moving out into residential areas and some were spotted in Westville. It was also noted that woolly stalks have been nesting and breeding in the area	
3.10	It was requested that the Town Planning Department use the SCP as it could be useful in the SDF. AM responded that because the EPCPD sits in under Planning, there has been integration with the Planning Department. While there are IDPs and a hierarchy of plans, the idea is to go down to scheme level.  It was queried whether the mapping techniques differ significantly between departments in terms of floodplains. AM responded that the query needs to be made to the engineers. TS commented that the engineers have had to remodel all of EM catchments, since the continual development of areas result in increased run-off. Thus, what was 1:100 floodplain then becomes a 1:50 year floodplain.	
3.11	A concern was raised regarding the achievability of the increased final output of D'MOSS. AM responded that the EPCPD is aware that things are transforming at a rapid rate, but within that we need to focus and flag as much as possible for conservation. At present, we are unable to control what is happening outside scheme areas. Ecosystem goods and services have in some instances been mapped over houses, but it is more to flag potential issues during planning processes.	
3.12	LF queried whether Atlas records and the Animal Demography Unit of UCT were consulted for their records. AM responded that it depends on the scale of the atlas project. Some are at ¼ degree scale; and the EPCPD could get challenged on that. Noted that the use of the SABAP atlas is fine scale so it is warranted. Added that the EPCPD has collaborated with Doug Hairbottle of the Animal Demography Unit of UCT.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Updates from Natural Resources Division (NRD) by Vuyi Radebe</b>	
4.1	VR introduced herself as the newly appointment Manager that has replaced Sibusiso Mkhwanazi.	
5.1	VR provided details on the proposed Animal Control Policy being developed. She mentioned she was involved with the development of the Animal Policy at EZEMVELO KZN Wildlife, so is aligning the EM Animal Control Policy with that one. However, Terry Stewart has been more involved and was requested to provide more detailed information.  TS stated that historically, the EM was comprised of 29 separate cities, towns and burrows. Some were self-sustaining and others were managed under Province. The problem was that there were different approaches relating to the development of by-laws. TS looked at problem animals vs. nuisance animals. Furthermore, the relevant legislation was considered, including the environmental Acts, KZN Wildlife Ordinance, Agricultural Resources Act, Animal Cruelty Act and Biodiversity Act etc. Thus far, a couple of meetings and workshops have been	

	held and the Draft Policy has been compiled with a vision. The next step is to call internal stakeholders including the EPCPD, Legal Department, Metro Police etc., to iron out any major issues with the Policy. The intention is to hold a public stakeholder meeting before the next Biodiversity Form to get input into the Policy.	
6.1	RJ mentioned that the city should use its influence and status to approach SANBI to get the ball rolling on legislation on feral cats, who are one of the biggest threats to wild areas. It is an emotive issue and decisions surrounding it would need to come from a national government level. TS responded that these cats have been included in the draft policy, but not sure it can actually be addressed under national legislation. LF added that it would be useful to talk to Botanical Gardens regarding this issue as they have a policy for cats. TS noted that the approach would be different when dealing with nature reserves.	
4.8	RJ further noted that 6 -7 years ago, the State of Florida had drafted legislation to manage private cats. MS mentioned that in terms of feral cats, he is working with Roy Cowgill and Birdlife SA. The last course of action might be removing the cats from the gardens.	
4.10	VR provided feedback on the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and noted that through the EPWP, several people have been trained to work in municipal owned nature reserves. Figures were provided from the budget for alien clearing in the reserves / D'MOSS areas (these figures will be distributed via email to attendees as noted in the meeting). NRD were able to employ approximately 250 staff that were able to clear ~268.4 ha of invasive alien plants. All EPWP staff contracts terminate at end of February 2012.	
4.11	NN queried whether the jobs created through the EPWP were fulltime or not. VR responded that the EPWP staff are employed through grants provided by government, who also specify the numbers of people to be employed and the duration of employment. The NRD were given funding to employ people for nine months. There is a national EPWP budget and only a portion is allocated to KZN.	
4.12	NN queried how much of the EPWP budget is spent on training. VR responded that as part of the programme, all staff are provided with training and other life skills. The jobs are provided on a rotational basis, new staff must be employed with every programme and only ~10% are allowed to be retained for a new term.	
4.13	VR reported on the fishing problem in uMdloti. She mentioned that she was reluctant to provide feedback at this stage as the matter has not yet been resolved. However, VR noted the following: The Saturday before 21 January 2012, fisherman from uMdloti wanted to fish in one particular spot. The NRD received phone calls from the people in District and Patrol Staff to report that fishermen were fishing in a prohibited area. The fisherman knew they were prohibited from fishing there. Metro police also arrived to monitor the situation. The fishermen went to the media to say that they want fishing to be allowed in that area. There was a meeting held with a group from KZN fishing and other fishermen. The fishermen wanted answers as to why the area was closed to fishing. VR noted that when she previously worked for the Seaworld Research Institute, she was involved with a project to rehabilitate the mussel stocks in that area. The project involved planting of mussels in the area that the fishermen are prohibited from fishing as part of an experiment. The area was declared a no fishing zone as it was designated as the testing ground and control zone for the project. People were notified at the time that area was closed to fishing. The issue is that now people want to fish there, despite there being a huge area open for fishing. The NRD informed the fishermen why the area was closed and also about the by-laws applicable to date. The only argument made by the fishermen was that EKZN Wildlife is checking the permits and not telling them about the rocks. VR is currently liaising with EKZN Wildlife on the matter.	
4.14	A question was raised whether the issue was with subsistence or recreational fishing. VR responded that it was recreational.	

4.15	<p>VR requested that Johan Vermeulen of EKZN Wildlife report on the crocodile problem, given that he was more closely involved.</p> <p>JV reported that he had taken on new position within EKZN Wildlife as of December 2012. He joked that his first project was adopt-a-croc in uMgeni. Mentioned that he received a call that a crocodile had been spotted in the river. The crocodile was seen on the sandbank via CCTV footage and is estimated to be 2.8 – 3 m in size.</p> <p>JV and team set out to capture the crocodile, but a permit to capture and relocate it was required. The team went out few nights to see if they could find the crocodile and to set the trap. JV was also accompanied by an Australian who traps and moves crocodiles for a living. The team went up and down the river, in a boat that was sponsored by the Durban University of Technology (DUT). The NRD assisted to place the trap in the river, which was baited mid-January. Despite the trap and patrols, the crocodile was not found. Before the Duzi Marathon, the team confirmed that the signs warning people about the crocodile was placed along the river. The team will, however, continue until they find the crocodile. Everyone worked around the clock checking the trap and also removed the trap before Umgeni Water released the water from the dam. JV made special thanks to eThekwini Municipality, EM, DUT and his staff for setting the trap and follow-up checking etc.</p>	
4.16	<p>JP mentioned that a few years ago, there was a problem with people drowning in the lagoon. The only thing that worked to deter people from swimming there was the erection of a sign in the lagoon, saying “Beware of the crocodile.” Since then no drowning has been reported.</p>	
4.17	<p>MB noted that there is a photo on the uMgeni Estuary website of the crocodile and the trap that was set.</p>	
4.18	<p>TS noted that every year, more than one person drowns in the estuary. Queried whether a risk assessment was undertaken, to determine the actual risk and probability of crocodile incident versus people who will not drown if there is a crocodile there. JV replied that no such assessment has been done.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Updates from Natural Science Museum (NSM) by Kristen Williams</b>	
5.1	<p>KW reported that the NSM will run a seminar on the last Wednesday of every month. Emails invitations will be sent out. Climate of resilience – stories of people affected by climate change will be at NSM until April.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Updates from Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department</b>	
6.1	<p>NG noted that there will be a presentation on COP at a future Forum meeting. NG read feedback on the Cop 17 that was provided via email by Sean O’Donoghue as noted below:</p> <p>From an eThekwini Municipality point of view, the hosting of COP17/CMP7 was a huge success. Leaders of the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change have stated that all future COP meetings will be hosted using the blue-print employed by eThekwini municipality. The hosting of this event has cemented Durban’s reputation as a prime destination for green mega events.</p> <p>Durban’s portion of the carbon footprint for the event has been estimated to be 15,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This amount will be completely offset by a reforestation project in Paradise Valley. This project forms part of the Community Ecosystems Based Adaptation Programme (CEBA). This is an innovative programme that provides the opportunity for unemployed and impoverished community members residing within ecosystems to help with the restoration work of the ecosystems within which they live, thereby providing both ecosystem and climate benefits for all. These community members effectively become “ecopreneurs” by offering riparian restoration, alien removal, litter collecting, indigenous tree growing and</p>	

	<p>planting services. The Durban CEBA was the official offset mechanism for COP17/CMP7. Showing astounding leadership, the South African National Negotiating team lead the way by offering to offset their travel footprint using CEBA. The almost R 1 million that was raised during COP17 will be used to restore the uMbilu and uMhlatuzane catchments within eThekweni Municipality. The Durban CEBA programme is now being extended to the uMhlangane catchment in the municipality, and is also being exported to our neighbouring municipalities, so the programme is being both replicated and scaled up. This has been the most exciting 'on-the-ground' innovation of COP17/CMP7.</p> <p>Substantial progress was made in the greening of COP17/CMP7. Besides the usual energy efficient interventions, and the calculation of the carbon footprint, the municipality put in place a system to measure the ecological footprint of the event. This is still being finalised, but it essentially measured the impact of the event on the ecology of the region, and relates this in an easy to understand currency. For example, the amount of food consumed during the event would require X number of hectares of land to supply it. Once again, this is a world first for the municipality, and it forces organisers of the event to consider the full ecological impact of the event, and not just the carbon space that is used.</p> <p>Undoubtedly Durban's biggest achievement for COP17/CMP7 was the hosting of the Durban Local Government Convention and the drafting and signing of the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC). This was done in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the South African Cities Network (SACN), the South African National Government and ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability. The DAC was signed by more than 114 mayors and elected leaders representing over 950 local governments worldwide. This represents the largest such signing for any charter to date, and emphasises the importance of climate change adaptation as an issue faced by local governments worldwide.</p> <p>The aim of the charter is to globally raise the awareness and profile of adaptation. It highlights the importance of local governments in being the organisations best placed to undertake the type of work that is needed to protect people from climate impacts that are already been felt. The charter was presented to the high level segment of COP17/CMP7, and has received enthusiastic support wherever it has been introduced. Currently, the implementing partners of the charter are busy designing a monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system that will allow local government organisations worldwide to accurately and fairly report on adaptation work being implemented. This represents a major landmark in the international fight against climate change, and is a point of pride for both Durban and South Africa.</p> <p>It is hoped that the charter will help local government organisations gain direct access to funds currently being set up, like the Green Climate Fund, so that adaptation, as a climate change response, can be accelerated to meet the immense challenges being faced, especially in high-risk, vulnerable and under-developed regions in the global south.</p>	
6.2	<p>RB provided feedback regarding the nature reserve proclamations. He noted that all surveys are complete and that Roosefontein Nature Reserve is ready for signoff by the City Manager and EKZN Wildlife. All that needs to be done is for the subdivision to be finalised.</p>	
6.3	<p>RJ noted that he would like hear feedback regarding Durban's Waste Management during COP17.</p>	
6.4	<p>TS queried the amount of trees that need to be planted to offset the carbon footprint of the COP. VR mentioned that she was approached by Wildlife Conservation Trust, who will be planting the same number of plants as the people who ran the comrades marathon perhaps.</p>	

	<p>The planting may taken place in Cato Manor/Cato Ridge/ Hillcrest area. LF mentioned that she was involved and concerned that tree planting programmes are concentrating too much on one species while more diversity is needed. It was also noted that trees should not be planted in areas that are naturally grasslands.</p>	
6.5	<p>SP mentioned that she noticed a large greenhouse in the vicinity of the King Shaka International Airport and queried whether it was part of CEBA. NG responded that as far as she knew, it was not part of CEBA.</p>	
6.6	<p>Jean Lindsey provided feedback as follows:</p> <p>Recently two incidents regarding trees have made her realise how little people know about trees. JL was called up to an upmarket property, worth over R 1 million, where a tree was being chopped down. There was a raptor nest in the tree, but unfortunately, she did not make it there in time to stop the cutting of the tree. JL was shocked to hear the property owner say that she does not like trees. JL realised that people need to be educated on the value of trees. Most of the time, when she asks people why they are chopping down trees, they respond with reasons including crime, sight lines around corners etc. JL would in that case request the case numbers for crime / accidents, but these are never available. JL raised concern that the NRD 'tree chopping departments' are chopping down trees while other departments are planting so many trees through the CEBA initiative and this might make the later initiatives null and void</p> <p>JL requested that the EPCPD compile a publication on trees, similar to the wetlands booklet, including information regarding the importance of trees in off-setting carbon etc. JL appealed to the forum to educate others regarding importance of trees.</p>	EPCPD
6.7	<p>JL stated that Sibusiso Mkhwanazi has expressed concern that people are guiding tour groups through nature reserves without permits. She noted that there are a number of skilled and passionate people that offer their services without charge. JL added that membership to a conservancy is R20 - R30 and a container of Garlon herbicide costs R850. JL is dissatisfied that Mr Mkhwanazi appears to have an issue with the volunteer work being undertaken for free by member of the conservancy.</p> <p>TS responded that is was the first time he heard about this issue. At Paradise Valley Nature Reserve, they have people coming in almost on a weekly basis as part of education groups who pay the entrance fee. VR mentioned that a similar issue was discussed at a recent meeting and requested that Martin Clement report back on the discussions. Mr Clement noted that there is a difference between local and international guided tours. He added that the bulk of nature education services they provide is run by volunteers. Local citizens with local knowledge are very important for conservation. However, KZN Tourism has stated that in order for one to be a tour guide, one needs to obtain a certificate level one tour guide course. Mentioned that the Botanical Gardens developed a guiding course through WESSA that is CETA accredited. Mr Mkhwanazi's concern is around the legal requirement of guiding a group of overseas visitors.</p> <p>MC noted that a guide can get through the certification easily without local knowledge. There is a need to strengthen the local knowledge of guides. It would be very sad to lose the role that the public play. TS mentioned that perhaps the issue with outside groups doing paid tours should rather be a matter of concern to SA Tourism and not eThekweni Municipality.</p>	
6.8	<p>LF queried whether there was any specific legislation within eThekweni Municipality regarding this issue and how legislation in this regard would be implemented even if it was</p>	



	available. Noted that with the bird club, accredited guides would take out large paying tourists groups, and tourists would fill in an indemnity form.	
6.9	A question was raised around the liability in case of injury in a municipal nature reserve. KR mentioned that the difference lies in whether the person paid for the tour or if they did it voluntarily. RB suggested that the eThekweni Legal Department be contacted for advice and that feedback be provided to the forum later.	EPCPD
6.10	JP requested clarity on JL's issue. JL noted that she is disappointed with officials that are against volunteers working in their reserves. RB clarified that Sibusiso Mkhwanazi had no intention to stop anyone from doing tours but rather just wants to cover the eThekweni Municipality from legal issues.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Meeting closure</b>	
7.1	NG thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.	