

MINUTES

eThekwini Biodiversity Forum

29 May 2014

9h00 – 12h00

Paradise Valley Nature Reserve



IN ATTENDANCE

Aerisha Ramkalawan	AR	Jean Lindsay	JL	Nosipho	
Alicia Gomez	AG	Jean Senogles	JS	Ndzimbomvu	NN
Adrian Armstrong	AA	Jeanne Tarrant	JT	Patty Mankowski	PM
Barry Lang	BL	Jessica Cockburn	JC	Preshen Banawari	PB
Ben Hoffman	BH	EJ (Kate) Richardson	KR	Richard Boon	RB
Benis Egoh	BE	Kenneth Mabila	KM	Richard Lundie	RL
Bheka Nxele	BN	Kethumusa Nshakala	KN	Rob Jamieson	RJ
Clive Walker	CW	Khumbuzile Luthuli	KL	Roddy Ward	RW
Colin Ross	CR	Kirstin Williams	KW	Rodney Bartholomew	RB1
Derrek Ruiters	DR	Lyle Ground	LG	Survarna Parbhoo	SP
Duane Constance	DC	Lutendo Mugwedi	LM	Rob Jamieson	RJ
Errol Douwes	ED	Mathieu Rouget	MR	Stephanie Reynolds	SR
Esmeralda		Margaret Burger	MB	Teddy Govender	TG
Ramburran	ER	Mbali Khoza	MK	Thami Kunene	TK
Gerald Clarke	GC	Mbali Mkhize	MM	Tony Wint	TW
Gideon Duma	GD	Natasha Govender	NG	Trafford Petterson	TP
Indrani Govender	IG	Nomafu Dlamini	ND	Warren Friedman	WF
Jabulani Khoza	JK				

APOLOGIES

Cllr Avril Coen, Cllr Billie Prinsloo, Di Higginson-Keith, Ed Granger, George Victor, Cllr Geoff Pullan, Cllr Gillian Noyce, Joan Porter, Jo Boule, Judy Mann, Kate Richardson, Kathryn Terblanche, Lilian Develing, Malcolm Steinbank, Mbali Mntungwa.

1	WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	ACTION
1.1	Natasha Govender (NG) welcomed all and facilitated introductions. She noted that the presentations to follow speak to two key interventions used in addressing biodiversity loss and climate change challenges viz., improving scientific robustness and initiating key partnerships.	
2.	PRESENTATIONS	
2.1	<i>eThekwini Municipality's Fine Scale Systematic Conservation Plan (EMSCP) - Cameron McLean, Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (EPCPD)</i>	
2.1.1	Cameron McLean (CM) presented on the progress that has been made in the development of the eThekwini Municipality's Fine Scale Systematic Conservation Plan. Firstly, CM gave a brief background to systematic conservation planning and the need to adopt this approach in Durban. He stated that systematic conservation planning identifies	

	<p>areas or landscapes that are important for retaining habitat quality and connectivity simultaneously for multiple species (or any other biodiversity features), thus providing a quantitative method for enhancing persistence of biodiversity in the long term. Some of the reasons why the EPCPD created the Fine-Scale EMSCP includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing pressures for land use change, • SCP approach is best known approach that optimises for the representation and persistence of biodiversity and associated services, • Need to regulate the transformation of natural areas through an in depth knowledge of system, • Need to be proactive i.e., prioritise areas for conservation action, • Alignment with provincial and national conservation goals and targets, and • Ensuring applicability to legislated planning tools. <p>CM indicated that the first iteration of the plan has been run using the Zonation software with the help of Mathieu Rouget from the University of KwaZulu Natal. In a nutshell, this product incorporates all known aspects of biodiversity (features and processes) and ecosystem services from various specialists in the eThekweni Municipal area into one comprehensive plan that optimizes for representation and persistence of the natural resource base (as defined by explicit targets) in an efficient manner which avoids land-use conflicts as far as possible.</p> <p>Some of the ways in which the EMSCP will be used include but are not restricted to: informing the biodiversity impact assessment/development approval processes by ensuring that natural areas that are critical for meeting targets are conserved; informing the proactive work of the department e.g., prioritising sites for environmental land acquisition; and facilitating monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity in Durban through better data management and dissemination.</p> <p>For more information please contact: Cameron McLean (Biodiversity Planning, EPCPD); Cameron.Mclean@durban.gov.za</p>	
2.1.2	<p>Mathieu Rouget requested clarification on the colours that were used in the map output from the Zonation software. CM explained what the various colours on the map meant e.g., one colour represented areas that were critical for meeting biodiversity targets.</p>	
2.1.3	<p>Tony Wint asked if the information, particularly relating to the vegetation statistics, will be made available to the public as these tell a very powerful conservation message. CM responded that the plan that was presented was very much 'hot of the press'; the software was run only on Monday of this week (26 May 2014). CM stated further that while he is very confident with all the information that has gone into the plan and the modelling etc., it is important that a further level of scrutinisation is undertaken both within the department and with external biodiversity experts/specialists before the plan is made available. However, those interested are welcome to contact CM on the email address above should they require any further information.</p>	
2.1.4	<p>Rob Jamieson asked whether the Hawaan Forest could be classified as Northern Coastal Forest? Richard Boon (RB) indicated that this is correct.</p>	
2.1.5	<p>Adrian Armstrong asked why the 'baseline' vegetation information was as recent as 1850? RB explained that this was partly based on the fact that the basis for Mucina and</p>	

	Rutherford's descriptions was 1850 and partly because around this time i.e., 1850 there was a substantial increase in European populations and settlements and the resultant transformation of the landscape in Durban.	
2.1.6	NG reiterated that the development of the fine-scale EMSCP is a huge achievement for the department, especially considering the need for increased scientific robustness and stronger arguments to protect biodiversity in the face of increasing threats to the natural environment.	
2.2	<i>Managing threatened ecosystems in an urban context: Implementation of a science-action partnership - Jessica Cockburn, University of KwaZulu Natal</i>	
2.2.1	<p>Jessica Cockburn (JC) presented on the 'Science-Policy-Practice' partnership between the eThekweni Municipality's Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (EPCPD) and the University of KwaZulu Natal, particularly the School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences and the School of Life Sciences.</p> <p>JC spoke to the importance of Durban as a global biodiversity hotspot and went on to describe the 'business unusual' way of generating knowledge through trans-disciplinary research processes e.g., developing a common understanding and the co-creation of relevant, solution orientated, transferrable knowledge that is beneficial to both practitioners and academics. The pilot phase of the research partnership runs from 2011 – 2014 and is focused on the critically endangered KZN Sandstone Sourveld grassland in the eThekweni Municipal Area.</p> <p>The aim of the research partnership is as follows: To advance knowledge in biodiversity conservation and management within the context of global environmental change. The objectives of the partnership are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding & knowledge of biodiversity ecosystem functioning and services and land use changes, • Assist city with decision-making for land use planning and management, • Address specific climate change challenges, • Develop monitoring protocols for climate change, and • Increase human capital. <p>JC showed a few slides with findings from some of the studies that were undertaken as part of the partnership. One study on Crowned Eagle habitat use provided definitive data showing the importance of D'MOSS in the foraging behaviour of this species. Another study looked at the changes in the woody/herbaceous ratio at the Krantzklouf nature reserve from 1978 to 2011 and showed a drastic change over the years – grassland habitat appeared to decrease and woody species increased substantially. This and other research is very useful when considering development applications, restoration endeavours etc.</p> <p>JC concluded by expanding on some of the challenges and achievements of the partnership to date. She indicated that the major challenges included the need for greater data management support, more integration tools and methods and intellectual capacity and support, and the need for more expertise relating to governance and social research.</p> <p>The achievements of the research partnership are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a foundation for long-term collaboration: Developing research relationships, interdisciplinary expertise and social capital; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building capacity: 11 post-graduate students completed studies, 10 underway; • Conducting relevant research: Trans-disciplinary research: necessary for good local governance and decision-making; • Generating useful knowledge: Collecting biodiversity data to contribute to better management of D'MOSS, understanding local community reliance on ecosystems, climate change adaptation needs and strategies; and • 'Bonus' Outcomes: Increased awareness about eThekweni Municipality's environmental work, leveraging co-funding to develop new, relevant knowledge and build capacity in Durban. <p>JC thanked all the people from the municipality and the university for their support and involvement in the partnership.</p> <p>Contact details: Jessica Cockburn: jessicacockburn@gmail.com</p>	
2.2.2	Lyle Ground asked whether the findings of the various studies are available and JC indicated that information from the many of the studies are available. Reports are also produced and submitted to Sean o' Donoghue from the EPCPD.	
2.2.3	NG expressed once again that the two presentations showed some of the excellent work that is being done in the eThekweni Municipal Area and showed very clearly that, "Practice without theory is blind; and theory with practice is sterile."	
3	Updates from various municipal departments	
3.1	Updates from the Durban Natural Science Museum (DNSM) – Kirstin Williams	
3.1.1	<p>The 'Go-Wild' mobile museum: Kirstin Williams (KW) updated the forum on the exciting 'mobile museum' initiative of the Durban Natural Science Museum. KW stated that the DNSM are in the process of piloting of the new mobile museum "GO-WILD" and the educational resources that are aligned with the curriculum . Going forward, the plan is to identify relevant educational programmes through effective integration of Museum resources, schools, and community involvement. It also serves to provide a strong foundation for ongoing learning within the formal education framework. This will enable the decentralizing of information whilst ensuring the quality of service delivery of the Museum's core services. The official launch date of the Mobile Museum has not yet been announced but is likely to take place in July 2014.</p> <p>For more information contact: Kirstin Williams at Kirstin.Williams@durban.gov.za.</p>	
3.1.2	<p>Biodiversity Seminar Series 2014: The Durban Natural Science Museum together with SAAMBR and the Royal Society will be holding monthly seminars at different venues focusing on a number of issues surrounding Biodiversity. There are no costs attached to these seminars. NG indicated that she would circulate the details of the seminars to the Biodiversity Forum with the minutes. Please see below for same:</p> <p><u>Biodiversity Seminar Series 2014</u> Speaker: Dr. David Pearton Topic: 'Primates, Parasites and Palm Oil: The Plight of the Sumatran Orangutan' Date: Wednesday, 4 June, 2014 Time: 17h30 for 18h00 Venue: SAAMBR, Len Baumann Conference Hall (Education Centre), i King Shaka Avenue, Point, Durban.</p>	NG, KW

	RSVP: Jessica Pillay; 031 328 8222; jpillay@saambr.org.za OR Jane Dlamini; 031 328 8114; jdlamini@saambr.org.za	
3.1.3	The KwaNunu Exhibition will be taking place at the end of June 2014. The date is to be confirmed. KW will inform the forum of the date in due course.	KW, NG
3.2	Updates from the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (EPCPD)	
3.2.1	<p>Errol Douwes (ED) provided updates from the Restoration Ecology Branch of the EPCPD which included the following:</p> <p>a. Name change of the branch: ED informed that the name of the branch within EPCPD that he manages has changed from 'Biodiversity, Climate and Green Projects Implementation' to 'Restoration Ecology'. He further stated that the purpose of the branch is, "To combine innovative research with practical implementation as a means to guide ecosystem restoration and sustainability within the Municipality." The key functions of the branch include: development and implementation of policies, plans & projects for biodiversity and climate protection; ensuring optimal and appropriate environmental asset management, undertaking research to improve ecosystem restoration and sustainability; and optimising co-benefits relating to skills development and job creation.</p> <p>b. Poverty and Environment Partnership: ED informed the forum that the 19th Poverty & Environment Partnership meeting held in Durban from 21 – 23 May 2014. The Poverty Environment Partnership is an informal network of development agencies, established in September 2001, which seeks to improve the coordination of work on poverty reduction and the environment within the framework of internationally agreed principles and processes for sustainable development. The objectives of the partnership include building a consensus on the critical links between poverty and the environment, particularly that better environmental management is essential to lasting poverty reduction and to improve the coordination of work on poverty reduction and environmental protection. The theme of the workshop held in Durban was, "From Cities to Sustainable Development Goals - Experiences with Green Economy and Climate Change Mainstreaming".</p> <p>c. Reforestation programme: Reforestation was initiated in 2008 and has received co-funding over a current three-year cycle - R36 million worth of external funding has been secured from the National Green Fund and Durban has committed R20 million to the programme. A dedicated project manager has been assigned to the programme i.e., Khulile Mavundla. Some of the key benefits of the programme to date include: over 400,000 trees have been planted in approximately 400 ha of land at Buffelsdraai; there are over 600 active treepreneurs (individuals from local communities that grow trees which they swap for credits); and 55 permanent jobs have been created. In addition to Buffelsdraai, two further reforestation sites are in operation i.e., iNanda Mountain and Paradise Valley.</p> <p>To ensure that the reforestation programme is scientifically defensible, uses evidence-based practice in environmental decision-making, and to allow for the development of appropriate monitoring systems, a research partnership with the University of KwaZulu Natal has been initiated. Currently, this involves, three post-doctoral, four PhD and nine MSc studies.</p>	

	<p>The intention going forward is to build a Reforestation Centre of Excellence which will serve the function of a visitors and education centre and information hub around all things relating to reforestation. Work being done within communities include: Advocacy programme, Education programme and a Eco-prenuer programme.</p>	
3.2.2	<p>Jean Lindsay (JL) requested an update on trees planted by the municipality as part of the carbon offset/greening programme for the 2010 Soccer World Cup. JL indicated that she recalls that the Parks Department were tasked to plant trees to help offset the 2010 World Cup . ED responded that he only has information for the projects for which he is responsible i.e., 400 000 trees in ~400 ha were planted in Buffelsdaraai, 59 700 trees in 30 ha iNanda Mountain and 26 425 trees in 36 ha* at Paradise Valley.</p> <p>* This figure represents the most up to date figure up until the end of the June 2013. ED will provide the most updated information in due course.</p>	ED
3.2.3	<p>In response to JL's request, NG mentioned that one of the indicators that have been added to the State of Biodiversity report (after discussions that were had at the Biodiversity Forum) was 'Tree Planting by the Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department (PLCD).' NG also said that she is unaware of any other tree planting statistics that are available, but she will follow up with Kenneth Mabila from the Natural Resources Division to find out if this information exists.</p>	NG, KM
3.2.4	<p>Suvarna Parbhoo asked about planting of plants other than trees and who advises these important decisions. ED reiterated that the research partnership would be critical in addressing some of the questions around the restoration of areas through programmes such as reforestation. Some information that was generated by Wildlands is also available for certain sites.</p>	
3.2.5	<p>Alicia Gomez in reading the statistics relating to 'Tree Planting by the Parks, Leisure and Cemeteries Department' in the State of Biodiversity report 2012/2013 asked why alien trees were planted. NG indicated that while she cannot speak for PLCD she does understand that the PLCD planted trees based on a 70/30 indigenous/exotic split as per the tree planting policy.</p> <p>Margaret Burger quoted from the State of Biodiversity Report that one Parks district had planted 3 000 exotic trees and asked why these were these planted. Teddy Govender (Senior Horticultural: PLCD) responded that he is in charge of growing trees that are to be planted by the PLCD and informed the forum that 98% of the trees that grows are indigenous and a good proportion are endemic. Barry Lang said that the 3 000 trees categorised as 'exotic' were in fact fruit trees planted in the Outer West as part of Arbor Day celebrations.</p> <p>NG stated that going forward it might be useful to include in the State of Biodiversity report any explanations that are available for the planting of exotic trees. This is something that the PLCD need to take cognisance of when providing data for the report.</p>	KM, NG
3.2.6	<p>Adrian Armstrong (AA) said that scarp forests are rich in biodiversity. He asked how the spread of alien soil organisms are being tackled? Some of the these organisms have a big impact on ecosystem functioning, e.g. earthworms and snails. AA was interested to know how we were preventing their introduction into new areas such as the reforestation sites? ED replied that to his knowledge, no work is currently being done on the introduction of soil invertebrates. ED stated further that communities involved in the reforestation are using local soil and this may likely reduce the risk of introduction of invasive soil organisms.</p>	

	AA stated that consideration must be given to using sterile soil media and ED replied that he will look into research in this area.	
3.2.7	Rob Jamieson said the City is missing an opportunity with its approach of brush cutting areas and creating 'green deserts'. He said that if there was a tree canopy in these areas, we would be able to cut down on the brush cutting and reduce the green desert effect.	
3.2.8	Jean Senogles asked if all the trees used at Buffelsdraai come from immediately adjacent areas as she is aware of trees being grown at Kwamashu for the reforestation project. ED replied that the bulk are from Buffelsdraai, but there are some sourced from further afield (a 50 km radius applies). This will be looked at in relation to Adrian Armstrong's comments of above.	
3.2.9	Invasive Alien Species Strategy: Bheka Nxele (BN) informed the meeting of the review of the Invasive Alien Species Strategy that took place two weeks ago. Working for Water, SANBI and EKZNW attended among others. A key issue raised was that of communication. Comments are being integrated into the strategy. The systematic conservation plan will assist in defining where to prioritise work on invasive alien plants.	
3.2.10	Ben Hoffmann noted that a lot of emphasis is placed on invasive alien plants and queried as to what is being done about birds or other fauna. BN replied that the strategy deals with both flora and fauna and ED reminded the forum that the Municipality has been very successful in controlling Indian House Crows. Trafford Petterson (TP) informed the meeting about issues relating to the pet trade and legal impediments to tackling the problem of invasive alien species. TP further stated that there exists an Invasive Species Forum where many important discussions are taken relating to invasive plant and animal species. For more information on the Invasive Species Forum please follow this link: http://www.invasives.org.za/item/439-kwazulu-natal-invasive-alien-species-forum-meets-at-midmar.html	
3.2.11	Adrian Armstrong noted that Table 5 of the State of Biodiversity Report 2012/2013 indicates that there is no budget for invasive alien plant control for some nature reserves and that there is no budget for Chameleon Park. He requested reasons for this anomaly. Kenneth Mabila said that he would respond to this comment when he provided his report back from the Natural Resources Division.	
3.2.12	Municipal Nature Reserve Proclamation: Derrek Ruiters (DR) informed the meeting that the proposed Roosefontein proclamation has been advertised for public participation. The advert went out in the Witness and the Isolezwe on the 27 th of May 2014. The public has 60 days to comment. DR noted that he hopes that the MEC will be able to issue the declaration shortly thereafter. DR said that all support would be helpful. Given that the nature reserve is in a Metropolitan area, there may be significant interest in the proclamation. DR urged forum members to submit their comments and requested that the advertisement be circulated with the minutes. The advertisement has been attached to the end of these minutes. If you are having difficulty reading the attachment, please email Natasha Govender: Natasha.Govender@durban.gov.za Written submission must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer: Ezemvelo KZN	NG, All

	Wildlife, P.O. Box 13053, Cascade 3202.	
3.2.13	<p>Environmental Land Acquisition: Natasha Govender reported on Land Acquisition as undertaken by the EPCPD. Last year the EPCPD acquired grassland areas of about 130 ha near Hammarsdale. This year we are concluding the purchase of a further 100 ha and next year we will be acquiring further land in the area to take us up to a total of approximately 290 ha of grassland. The Department plans to proclaim all KZN Sandstone Sourveld it has purchased as a nature reserve in terms of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act ensuring the continued protection of this critical endangered vegetation type.</p>	
3.2.14	<p>Mayoral Biodiversity Awards: Natasha Govender reported on the Mayoral Biodiversity Awards on behalf of Cassandra Schnoor. NG explained briefly the purpose of the awards: These awards aim to acknowledge individuals/groups/businesses that are going over and above to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity within our municipality. If any forum members are unsure about whether their nomination fits in or meets the criteria please note that they should still forward the nomination through to Cassandra as it will go through various screenings and filterings as part of the awards process. NG will circulate nomination forms and more information on the biodiversity awards.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Category: Mayors Awards for Excellence information pack that outlines the process and criteria used, together with the nomination forms have been circulated with these minutes. If you are experiencing difficulty with opening the attachment or would like further information, please contact Cassandra Schnoor at Cassandra.Abboy@durban.gov.za.</p>	
3.3	Updates from the Natural Resources Division – Kenneth Mabila	
3.3.1	<p>Responding to the earlier comment that AA made around budgets allocated to nature reserves, KM indicated that budgets are available for nature reserves but not necessarily for areas that are considered conservation areas but that do not have an official nature reserve status e.g., Chameleon Park. KM further noted that he found it a challenge that the reserves are not properly protected and don't have management plans. The nature reserves proper e.g., Paradise Valley, Pigeon Valley to name a few, do have budgets assigned to them, but there isn't always a budget for Council-owned D'MOSS areas. He expects that more areas will receive budgets in the future. NRD have been identifying areas for work with councillors and will need to look for budget to undertake the work required in these areas.</p>	
3.3.2	<p>NRD are considering the review of by-laws in nature reserves. KM has sent a list of items/activities for which he feels we need by-laws to the municipality's Legal Services Department. The draft bylaws will be circulated for comment.</p>	KM
3.3.3	<p>He also reported that in the south of the city there have been serious complaints about water hyacinth. Some budget has been sourced and co-operatives have been put into the field to tackle this problem. The project will run for two months until the end of the financial year.</p>	
3.3.4	<p>Rob Jamieson stressed the importance of undertaking any form of alien plant control, particularly in and around water bodies, with the utmost care and mindfulness. RD stated that he sometimes gets the impression that people are being 'let loose with herbicides' and they are not using them properly possibly due to poor training. He stated that he was not referring to NRD specifically but to all individuals and organisations that are involved in</p>	

	<p>alien plant control. He appealed to KM to ensure that people are well trained in the use of herbicides. He further stated the he is concerned that some Departments may not be using best practice in terms of invasive alien plant control.</p> <p>Kenneth responded that conservation officers will be playing an oversight role whenever invasive alien plant control is being undertaken.</p>	
3.3.5	Adrian Armstrong reminded all that it is particularly critical to use the right formulations in aquatic habitats because amphibians are susceptible to wetting agents..	
3.3.6	<p>Tony Wint suggested there should be simple guidelines for the control of invasive alien species. Bheka Nxele offered to share some information regarding this. Jean Lindsay reminded the meeting about the WESSA booklet which provides easy to use guidelines for dealing with various invasive species, which Margaret Burger confirmed is being reprinted and translated.</p> <p>For more information, please contact stopthespread@wessakzn.org.za or visit the WESSA Stop The Spread website by following this link: http://www.wessa.org.za/what-we-do/stop-the-spread.htm for a lot of useful information on invasive alien species.</p>	
3.3.7	Jean Lindsay reminded KM that at the last Biodiversity Forum meeting that was held in February 2014 she had offered the Conservancies' assistance in various things relating to nature reserves and other areas under NRD's mandate and was expecting to hear from KM. KM suggested that a date be set immediately to develop a terms of reference for outlining the relationship between conservancies and the municipality.	
3.3.8	NG indicated that it would best for all involved to consider meeting briefly after the Biodiversity Forum to consult diaries and map out a way forward.	KM, JL, TW
3.3.9	<p>Following the meeting, TW requested the details of forum attendees to ensure that all interested individuals may be present at this meeting with NRD. Further to this, the KZN Conservancies Association are looking to pursue the proposal for a KZNCA/Ethekwini MOA. Some of the key issues to be discussed include but are not restricted to: KZNCA alignment with the eThekwini Fine Scale Systematic Conservation Plan; removal and management of alien vegetation; restoration, development and management of gardens, nature reserves and parks in eThekwini; creation of new protected areas in eThekwini; beautification and maintenance of urban areas; and the development of new Conservancies in previously disadvantaged communities</p> <p>If you would like more information relating to this, please contact Tony Wint at tonybarb@nashuaisp.co.za</p>	KM, JL
4.	General	
4.1	<p>Jean Lindsay raised a concern about old trees being cleared for development. Tony Wint told the meeting about offsets and felt that it is an important policy that should be introduced. Lyle Ground informed the meeting that the Western Aqueduct has been through the EIA process and there were conditions of approval. He offered to check the reports for these.</p> <p>The following details were provided by Lyle Ground following the forum: The Environmental Control Officer (ECO) details for Western Aqueduct are: zsoni@knightpiesold.com (Zaid Soni) and mryan@knightpiesold.com (Mark Ryan)</p>	LG

	They will be able to attend to any points of clarity that the Forum members may have.	
4.2	Jean said that the more serious loss of trees was caused by the Integrated Rapid Public Transport Network. Trafford Petterson explained how trees are dealt with in the development applications and how Parks deal with requests to remove trees.	
4.3	Adrian Armstrong asked how to apply to get the zonation of parcel of land to a more appropriate conservation zone changed pro-actively and how we ensure that areas that should be rezoned as part of EIA processes are rezoned for conservation. Gerald Clarke and Richard Boon replied that the site AA is particularly interested in, i.e. Chameleon Park, is on the list of sites to be rezoned with the consent of senior management at the Parks, Leisure and Cemeteries Department. RB replied too that most sites that must be rezoned as part of EIA processes are in fact rezoned, but that if this doesn't happen and people are aware of the omission they should let the EPCPD know.	
5.	Close of meeting	
5.1	NG thanked all for attending and closed the meeting. The next Biodiversity Forum will take place on 14 August 2014 at Paradise Valley Nature Reserve from 9 am to 12 pm.	



KWAZULU-NATAL NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD

CONSULTATION PROCESS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003): INTENTION TO DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

Notice is hereby given by the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) Agriculture and Environmental Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal, The Honourable Dr. B.M. Fedebe, in terms of Section 33(1) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) of the intention to declare the Fort Nottingham Nature Reserve, the Alandale Nature Reserve, the Beaumont Nature Reserve, the Bosch Berg Nature Reserve, Thanda Private Game Reserve, Mdana Royal Game Reserve, uMngeni Plateau Nature Reserve, Rosefontein Nature Reserve, additions to the existing Zululand Rhino Reserve, additions to Mount Currie Nature Reserve; and Beacon Hill Protected Environment, in terms of Sections 23 and 26 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003. The proposed protected areas are located on the following properties:

Fort Nottingham Nature Reserve: Townlands of Fort Nottingham No. 15962, Registration Division FT, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 1096,1533 ha (one thousand and ninety-six comma one five three three hectares) and held under Title Deed T5593/88, as indicated in S.G. No. 1155/1987; Lot A of the Government Reserve at Fort Nottingham in State Lands Vol.2 Fol.42.

Beaumont Nature Reserve: The farm Vooruitsigt No. 23, Registration Division ES, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 1019,7439 ha (one thousand and nineteen, comma seven four three nine hectares) and held under Title Deed T19981/2010.

Bosch Berg Nature Reserve: Portion 9 of the Farm Bosch Berg No. 1025, Registration Division FS, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 786,9404 ha (seven hundred and eighty six comma nine four zero four hectares) and held under Title Deed T46892/2005, S.G. No. 166/2005, with the nature reserve comprising 351,5395 ha (three hundred and fifty one comma five three nine five hectares) as indicated in S.G. No. 5G 1779/2009.

Thanda Private Game Reserve: The farm Thanda No. 17905, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 4730,1794 ha (four thousand and thirty comma one seven nine four hectares), held under Title Deed T47057/2005, as indicated in S.G. No. 874/2005; The farm Bayete No. 17711, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 313,1172 ha (three hundred and three comma one one seven two hectares), held under Title Deed T47055/2005, as indicated in S.G. No. 872/2005; The farm Sub A of Iihoya No. 13116, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 176,5948 ha (one seventy six comma five nine four eight hectares), held under Title Deed T41774/2008, as indicated in S.G. No. Sub. Vol. 803 Fol. 436 (495/1987); The farm Uhohehu No. 16012, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 655,5697 ha (six hundred and fifty five comma five six nine seven hectares), held under Title Deed T41774/2008, as indicated in S.G. No. 302/1988; The remaining extent of the farm Bartenheim No. 13194, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 1843,9694 ha (one thousand eight hundred and forty three comma nine six nine four hectares), held under Title Deed T22440/2007, as indicated in S.G. No. G31/944.

Mdana Royal Game Reserve: A portion of the farm Bacha No. 13719, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 1038,0196 ha (one thousand and thirty eight comma zero one nine six hectares), held under Title Deed T25759/1981, as indicated in S.G. No. T82/950; A portion of the farm Bombolo No. 13120, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 1529,8320 ha (one thousand five hundred and twenty nine comma eight three two zero hectares), held under Title Deed T3537/1947, as indicated in S.G. No. G131/942; A portion of the farm Baghmali No. 13119, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 960,8538 ha (nine hundred and sixty comma eight five three six hectares), held under Title Deed T3537/1947, as indicated in S.G. No. G131/942; The farm Bagmara No. 13118, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 915,7487 ha (nine hundred and fifteen comma seven four eight seven hectares), held under Title Deed T3537/1947, as indicated in S.G. No. G131/942; The farm Barlow No. 13117, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 834,8672 ha (eight hundred and thirty four comma eight six seven two hectares), held under Title Deed T3537/1947, as indicated in S.G. No. G131/942; A portion of the farm Bukanda No. 13711, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 1074,8460 ha (one thousand and seventy four comma eight four six zero hectares), held under Title Deed T16333/1981, as indicated in S.G. No. T82/950; The farm Cabaret No. 13712, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 1147,6895 ha (one thousand one hundred and forty seven comma six eight nine five hectares), held under Title Deed T16333/1981, as indicated in S.G. No. T82/950.

uMngeni Plateau Nature Reserve: Remaining extent of the farm "Woodhouse No. 1", No. 6870, Registration Division FS, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 442,89 ha (four hundred and forty two comma eight nine hectares) held under Title Deed T12400/2000, as indicated in Grant Vol 179 fol 2; The farm "Woodmeade" No. 15974, Registration Division FS, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 335,78 ha (three hundred and thirty five comma seven eight hectares) held under Title Deed T12400/2000, as indicated in S.G. No. 2779/1987; Portion 4 of the farm "Palmer" No. 9339, Registration Division FS, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 38,84 ha (thirty eight comma eight four hectares) held under Title Deed T16864/2011, as indicated in S.G. No. 1161/1965.

Rosefontein Nature Reserve: Remainder of Erf 3993 Westville, eThekweni Municipality, Registration Division FT, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent of 101,2705 ha (one hundred and one comma two seven zero five hectares) as indicated in S.G. No. 1032/2012; Portion 27 of Erf 2369 Westville, eThekweni Municipality, Registration Division FT, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 114,15 ha (one hundred and fourteen comma one five hectares) as indicated in S.G. No. 1031/2012; Erf 6147 Queensburgh, eThekweni Municipality, Registration Division FT, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 12,211 ha (twelve comma two one one one hectares) as appears on S.G. No. 447/2011.

Additions to Zululand Rhino Reserve: Portion 13 of the Farm Mkuzi-Wes No. 14403, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 931,4614 ha (nine hundred and thirty one comma four six one four hectares), held under Title Deed T1277/2008, as indicated in S.G. No. 5113/1990; Remainder of Portion 8 of the Farm Mkuzi-Wes No. 14403, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 467,8547 ha (four hundred and sixty seven comma eight five four seven hectares), held under Title Deed T1277/2008, as indicated in S.G. No. 5108/1980; The Farm Mziki No. 13113, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 385,2611 ha (three hundred and eighty five comma two six one one hectares), held under Title Deed T1277/2008, as indicated in S.G. No. G127/942; The farm Houthuak No. 17597, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 1020,1510 ha (one thousand and twenty comma one five one zero hectares) as indicated in S.G. No. 1978/2002; Portion 10 of the farm Mkuzi-Wes No. 14403, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 988,2432 ha (nine hundred and eighty eight comma two four three two hectares) as indicated in S.G. No. 5110/1990; Portion 3 of the farm Okalweni No. 13151, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 239,9888 ha (two hundred and thirty nine comma nine eight six eight hectares), as indicated in S.G. No. 1977/2002; Portion 15 of the farm Mkuzi-Wes No. 14403, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 839,2380 ha (eight hundred and thirty nine comma two three eight zero hectares) as indicated in S.G. No. 265/1988; Remainder of Portion 7 of the farm Mkuzi-Wes No. 14403, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 372,0311 ha (three hundred and seventy two comma zero three one one hectares); held under Title Deed T21610/2011, as indicated in S.G. No. 5107/1980; Portion 21 of the farm Mkuzi-Wes No. 14403, Registration Division HV, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, 787,0767 ha (seven hundred and eighty seven comma zero seven six seven hectares) in extent, held under Title Deed T42484/2005.

Additions to Mount Currie Nature Reserve: Remaining extent of Erf 1 Kokstad, Registration Division ES, in extent approximately 542,615 ha (five hundred and forty two comma eight one five hectares), held under Title Deed GR145/1934, as appears in S.G. No. 3268/1932.

Beacon Hill Protected Environment: Portion 1 of 506, uMngeni Municipality, Registration Division FT, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, in extent 38,5829 ha (thirty nine comma five eight two nine hectares), held under Title Deed T11539/1973, as indicated in S.G. No. 4339/1972.

Members of the public are hereby invited to submit written representation on or objections to the notice to the proposed declaration of the above-mentioned Nature Reserves and Protected Environment, within 60 days of its publication. Written submissions must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer: Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, P.O. Box 13053, Cascades, 3202.