SPIOENKOP NATURE RESERVE

KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

Protected Area Management Plan:
Public Participation Report
2013

Prepared by
Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Protected Area Management Planning Unit
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1) **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS**

Spioenkop Nature Reserve is situated off the Provincial Road R600, 27kms south-west of Ladysmith, 11kms north of Winterton and 6kms north-east of Bergville as the crow flies. The reserve consists of the state owned Spioenkop Dam, situated at its centre, and surrounded, predominantly, by vegetation types such as the KwaZulu-Natal Highland Thornveld covering approximately 97% of the Reserve, as well as a small portion of the Northern KwaZulu-Natal Shrubland in the north-east of the reserve which covers about 3% of the Reserve.

The Spioenkop Dam is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs (DWEA). The dam divides SNR into two sections, the South-Shore Section (2 304 ha) south of the dam and North-Shore Section (1 666 ha) north of the dam.

The original Spioenkop Dam, which is located at the centre of the Reserve, was developed in the late 60s with the aim of tapping into the hitherto relatively unutilized water resources of the Upper uThukela River for the promotion of industrial expansion in the Ladysmith-Colenso-Bergville area as well as for irrigation expansion along the uThukela River itself, including the Bloukrantz River Valley. It was also to supply supplementary water to the Vaal River basin for urban and industrial use.

The reserve is a key component of the protected area system in the region of KwaZulu-Natal. The protected area is situated east of the northern section of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site and to the North West of Wagon Drift Dam Nature Reserve and Weenen Nature Reserve (Map A – Location of Spioenkop Nature Reserve); within the Uthukela District Municipality and the oKhahlamba Local Municipality.

Spioenkop was proclaimed initially in 1975 as the Spioenkop Public Resort Nature Reserve; in 1988 additional farms were consolidated and proclaimed as part of the Spioenkop Public Resort Nature Reserve with a total size of 7283 ha. The reserve is no longer known by the full proclaimed name but as Spioenkop Nature Reserve.

The famous historic battlefield site of Spioenkop hill can be accessed on foot from the reserve or by road outside of the reserve, this site offers stunning views of the Drakensberg Mountains and foothills.

Spioenkop Nature Reserve is a registered Important Bird Area (IBA, SA 062) with Cape Vulture (*Gyps coprotheros*), the rare Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) and occasionally the Lappet faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*) utilising the vulture restaurant in the reserve. The reserve protects important vegetation types including KwaZulu-Natal Highveld Thornveld with a small portion of the vulnerable Temperate Alluvial Vegetation present in the north east of the reserve. Small portions of the vulnerable vegetation type, Northern KwaZulu-Natal Moist Grassland are present in the western and north western parts of the reserve. Important animal species such as White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) is also represented in the reserve.

The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (No.57 of 2003) requires that Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife compile and implement Protected Area Management Plans in all of the protected areas under its jurisdiction. In preparing these plans it is important that participatory processes, involving local communities and other stakeholders are implemented in an effort to ensure that all key issues are considered and incorporated into the management plan.

This public participation report provides the background to the process followed in developing the management plan for Spioenkop Nature Reserve. It reflects the inputs and involvement of stakeholders in developing the plan and provides a summary of the key issues that have emerged.
from this process. This document will form a supporting document to the management plan, providing some of the details and context of how the plan was formulated.

1.1 The context of stakeholder consultation

In terms of Section 39(3) of the Protected Areas Act, consultation is required with municipalities, other organs of state, local communities and other affected parties, which have an interest in the area, when compiling a management plan for a protected area. Furthermore, the input and support of key stakeholders is considered vitally important in the management of protected areas and in the implementation of many of the actions set out in their management plans. For this reason a comprehensive public participation process has been undertaken in preparing the management plan for Spioenkop Nature Reserve.

1.2 Approach and objectives of the consultation process

The approach to consultation in preparing the management plan for Spioenkop Nature Reserve has been to target communities in the area around the reserve together with municipalities, relevant government authorities and other key stakeholders. The process has been targeted at key representatives of stakeholder groups in an effort to enable meaningful input in the development of the management plan. The objectives of the public consultation process have been to:

- Ensure that the communities around the reserve are aware of its importance and the conservation imperatives that formed the basis for its proclamation.
- Discuss and agree on the values of Spioenkop Nature Reserve in order to come to a common understanding of why it is important and should be protected.
- Canvas aspirations, issues, concerns and conflicts associated with the reserve that must be resolved through the management plan.
- Provide additional information that is required by individual stakeholders and to request input and pertinent information that may aid the process and the management of the reserve from stakeholders.

The list of participants who have been consulted and who have attended meetings as part of the public consultation process is attached in Appendix A.
### 1.3 Consultation process

The public stakeholder consultation commenced in June 2013 when the stakeholder workshop was advertised in the Illanga, Isoleswe, Mercury, Estcourt and Midlands News and the Witness between 6 and 8 June 2013. See Appendix B for the minutes of the stakeholder meeting, Appendix C for scanned copies of the adverts, Appendix D for the Background document and Appendix F for scanned copies of the attendance registers. The stakeholder workshop took place at the Spioenkop Nature Reserve on 3 July 2013. Prior to the stakeholder workshop a background information document was made available to stakeholders on the Ezemvelo website and was also mailed to stakeholders on request.

Groups that were invited included district and local municipalities, neighbours, neighbouring communities and non-governmental conservation organisations. See Appendix B for the attendance register and minutes of the meeting.

The draft protected area management plan was made available to public review for a period of three weeks. The draft plan was advertised in the Illanga, Isoleswe, Mercury, Estcourt and Midlands News and the Witness on 12 to 14 September 2013. All stakeholders who attended the stakeholder workshop were informed either through e-mail, telephonically or through verbal messages to the various communities by the Officer in Charge.

Hard copies of the documents were made available at the Umtshezi and Okhahlamba Local Municipality, uThukela District Municipalities and at the Weenen Nature Reserve gates.

Closing dates for comments was 4 October 2013 and the document was available for review for three weeks. Due to the fact that no comments were received the Park Planning Committee did not meet to consider comments.

Additionally adverts were posted at the following places:

- OK Winterton Notice Board
- Spar Winterton Notice Board

This process and the overall process for the development of the protected area management plan are summarised in Table 1.1 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 June 2013</td>
<td>Adverts for stakeholder workshop in Illanga, Isoleswe, Mercury and the Witness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June 2013</td>
<td>Advert for stakeholder workshop in the Estcourt and Midlands News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 July 2013</td>
<td>Stakeholder workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>Draft protected area management plan for public comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 September 2013</td>
<td>Public comment invited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2013</td>
<td>Consideration of public comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 October 2013</td>
<td>Additional stakeholder meeting requested by stakeholder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>Submit final document to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife committees for approval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2) **KEY FINDINGS OF THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS**

The reserve currently does not have a secured boundary fence and this is continually exacerbated by the stealing and vandalising of the fence. This is a concern especially considering the presence of White Rhino in the reserve. Another effect of the state of the boundary fence is human/animal conflict due to game (including zebra) escaping to neighbouring farmers. The relationship with neighbours needs to be improved as there are mistrust present based on historical and current issues relating to disease control, the ineffectiveness of the fence and human/animal conflict issues.

Furthermore inappropriate land-uses in the area surrounding the reserve could potentially present threats to the reserve. The reserve tourism and management infrastructure need to be assessed and upgraded where required. There is the potential to expand eco-tourism facilities but the feasibility of this must be investigated with due consideration to current and required service infrastructure.
### COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B C Coventry</td>
<td>Overgrazing of the buffer zone and river sand removal from the Venter Spruit. Suggest proper control of the area, including fencing and patrolling as well as stopping of individuals entering the area – hunting with dogs. Maybe charging for the river sand as a source of revenue could stop this practice.</td>
<td>Management in the buffer zone of the reserve focuses on maintaining good relationships with neighbours as well as encouraging compatible land use in the area. Legally Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has no right to control access in the buffer area and should illegal sand mining take place, the information should be given through to the relevant Department of Environmental Affairs compliance officer. Similarly poaching incidents should be reported to the relevant District Conservation Officer. (Department of Environmental Affairs - 033 347 1820 and DCO Ephraim Mavuso – 0835918907)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Re-fencing the complete reserve so access can be restricted and game could be better controlled without so much loss.</td>
<td>We note this comment and the securing and re-fencing of the boundary has been identified in the management plan as a priority project that requires additional funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proper management of the animals with particular attention to problem animals, especially species that affect neighbouring farmers. Eland, Kudu, Waterbuck causing crop damage. Wildebeest, Blesbok – Diseases.</td>
<td>Human / animal conflict is addressed in the management plan with the first step requiring the proper fencing of the reserve. Disease management has also been addressed with the implementation of procedures to manage and monitor through surveillance. Potential disease has been addressed in the management plan. Table 6.8 Framework for conservation management – wildlife management and conservation targets (Page 77).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggestion: Utilising renewable resources to generate revenue. Here I mean thatch grass, wood and silt in the dam. This could all become a valuable asset and revenue source.</td>
<td>Resource utilisation is currently taking place as a benefit to various communities. The reserve management committee will consider each request for resources through the relevant process and in line with various policies. In terms of the silt removal, the land based component of this is an inappropriate activity for a protected area, in terms of the dam; this will fall under the authority of the Department of Water Affairs who is responsible for the management and maintenance of the water body.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a camp on the North Shore for fisherman to utilize or even a fishing club.</td>
<td>We note this comment and this will be considered during a feasibility study for tourism infrastructure and activities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REFERENCES

APPENDIX A
LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SPIEKENkop NATURE RESERVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ORGANISATION</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ian King</td>
<td>Chairman of Mount Royal Conservancy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ianking@intekom.co.za">ianking@intekom.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Rossouw</td>
<td>AMAFA</td>
<td>amafa@<a href="mailto:pmbz@mweb.co.za">pmbz@mweb.co.za</a>, <a href="mailto:celrossouw@gmail.com">celrossouw@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanie Meitz</td>
<td>Three Tree Lodge</td>
<td>Delivered through reserve manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry Coventry</td>
<td>Hambrook</td>
<td>Delivered through reserve manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Farley</td>
<td>Wildlands Trust</td>
<td><a href="mailto:graemef@wildlands.co.za">graemef@wildlands.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Nel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Delivered through reserve manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Rushton</td>
<td>COGTA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craig.rushton@kznigta.gov.za">craig.rushton@kznigta.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Theron</td>
<td>Birldlife SA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kzn@birldlife.org.za">kzn@birldlife.org.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garry Green</td>
<td></td>
<td>Delivered through reserve manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spioenkop Lodge</td>
<td></td>
<td>Delivered through reserve manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B
MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDER MEETING

MINUTES FROM THE SPIENKOP STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP
IN THE SPIENKOP NATURE RESERVE MEETING ROOM
ON 3 JULY 2013 AT 10H00

1. Opening and Welcome
   The Facilitator welcomed all those present.
   Attendance for the workshop as per Attendance Register.
   Apologies:
   E W Leathern
   A G Green
   J A McClelland
   S McKean – Resource Use Ecologist - EKZNW

2. Introductions
   Those present introduced themselves.

3. Why PAMPS?
   In terms of the NEMP Act No 57 of 2003, the Protected Area
   Management Plan is a legal and binding document.
   It is used as a primary strategic tool for management of the nature
   reserve.
   The document provides motivations for budgets.
   It also builds accountability for actions.
   It is a tool used for capacity building, future thinking and continuity.
   The document is also used to develop and manage SNR in order
   to protect its values and the purpose for which it was created.

4. The Spioenkop Nature Reserve
   As those present know the Spioenkop Nature Reserve extremely
   well so no overview was given.

5. The process
   The process of drawing up and producing a management plan was
   explained in detail.
6. **Purpose of the meeting**
The purpose of the meeting was to source input from stakeholders before preparing the draft plan. The stakeholders would be asked to consider the values and vision of the reserve. Consideration would also need to be given to key issues, threats, opportunities and interventions that would be required for the reserve.

7. **Values of Spioenkop Nature Reserve**
The Facilitator explained that the values of a place are those remarkable attributes that exemplify it and are largely the reason that it has been proclaimed as a protected area. The values are important in planning and management, as they are the aspects of the place that must be protected.

The following ideas came from the floor:
- Traditionally underfunded.
- Need to upgrade buildings and facilities as it is being run into the ground and to give the community and tourists, both local and overseas, something they want to see and come back to visit again.
- 60km of fencing needs to be repaired as the game is roaming on all the neighbouring farms, including rhino close to homesteads and rhino almost being killed on the road.
- The reserve provides recreational facilities with the dam for watersports, game viewing etc.
- There are income generating opportunities.
- There are financial implications with regard to the fence issue and the buildings that have not been maintained, this results in the reserve being less attractive to tourists.
- The reserve is extremely important for biodiversity.
- There needs to be major commitment for eco-tourism by EKZNW and the neighbouring communities and the businesses.
- There needs to be a major community outreach.
- There is a high game reproduction rate and this needs to be capitalised on.
• The reserve adds value to tourism.
• It is vital to encourage environmental awareness for school children and visitors alike.
• Projects like the Ox Pecker project need to be continued.

The following had been identified by EKZNW:
• An untransformed area of unique natural beauty.
• Provide protection for threatened and endangered species and important vegetation types.
• Protection of a portion of the Thukela River.
• Learning and research opportunities.
• Intact vegetation around the dam prevent siltation and keep dam functional.
• The reserve delivers a range of ecosystem services to the broader community which includes climate change mitigation, water services, soil stability and refugia for biodiversity.
• Recreation and eco-tourism opportunities.
• Opportunities and facilities for environmental awareness.
• Permanent and temporary job opportunities.
• Awareness, recreation and sense of place.
• Learning and research opportunities.
• Battlefield sites related to the Second Anglo-Boer War
• Late Iron Age settlement sites.

8. **Vision for Spioenkop Nature Reserve**
The Facilitator advised that the vision describes the overall long-term goal for the operation, protection and development of SNR.

The following ideas came from the floor:
• Must become economically viable within the next 5 years.
• Self-sustainable.
• Preserve animals and plants.
• Creative partnerships with neighbouring communities.
• Community is quite happy to come to the party.
- The community wants to help with educational talks etc and would be willing to help with sorting out tractors, buildings etc.

EKZNW had identified the following:
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Conservation of cultural assets
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Sustainable eco-tourism
- Further discussion suggested that the above should all be time specific.
- Kevin Robinson was very happy to help with the component on Youth Development in the Plan.
- It was suggested that the communities help with recapturing the game and returning it to the reserve or selling the game and using that money to help with the fencing.
- Geoff Gordon said when he went back to Tanzania he would be holding discussions with the World Bank on various veterinary issues and he would find out from them as to whether they would be willing to look at funding the cost of the 60km of fencing required by the reserve.

9. **Management issues, opportunities, threats and interventions**

The workshop was then asked to focus on those issues they considered to be Management issues, opportunities, threats and interventions.

The following came from the floor:
- Sustainability of the maintenance of the reserve.
- Snot sickness: There was a feeling that Management would have to remove wildebeest as it is wildebeest specific. This was a cause of extreme friction. The workshop was advised that an undertaking was given 10 years ago to remove all the Black Wildebeest. That had been carried out and that only Blue Wildebeest remained in the reserve. Expert advice was needed in coping with this problem.
• EKZNW was requested to urgently look at their Public Liability clause in their insurance policy to see if provision has been made for compensation to farmers who lose animals as a direct result of contamination by game in its reserves.
• As there was no fence there was a huge problem with wandering animals such as Warthog, jackal, bush pig, water buck, eland and zebra.
• EKZNW and the communities surrounding the reserve need to actively explore ways and means of putting the fence back and getting the animals to return to the reserve.
• EKZNW was advised that there was a huge new water filtration plant proposed below the dam wall and this would have a major impact on the biodiversity in the area. Documentation would be sent through to EKZNW in this regard.
• Regular TB testing needed to take place.
• Management infrastructure.
• Staff issues.
• The on-going issue of waste removal in the area needed to be covered.

The following issues were identified by EKZNW:

• State of management and eco-tourism facilities.
• State of roads and fences (theft of fencing).
• Illegal cattle grazing inside the reserve (north shore).
• Management of the museum and battlefield site.
• Erosion control.
• Environment Awareness.
• Maintenance of the vulture hide. Neighbouring farmers offered to drop off the carcasses of dead cattle for this, as it was seen as a huge opportunity both to the reserve and the tourists to keep this functional. Veterinary opinion needs to be obtained on the viability of using domesticated animal carcasses.
• With fully operational vulture hides the Crow population increases substantially.
• Feral cats at the office.
• Security of game.
• Cultural assets require assessment from AMAFA.
• Accelerated erosion control.
• Bush encroachment.
• Natural resource use (game capture etc).
• Human animal conflict.
• Fire management.
• Threatened and protected species management.
• Environmental awareness.
• Sufficient and consistent funding.
• Sufficient human resources.
• Improved communication with stakeholders.
• Invasive plant control (Prickly Pear and Lantana).
• Road infrastructure. Some present felt that all the roads in the reserve needed to be tar.
• Internal signage.
• Development and maintenance of eco-tourism facilities.

Other items raised:
• Work with water affairs to gain access to the dam wall as a tourist attraction.
• Access to north shore.
• There were 2 Bush camps. 1 had to be abandoned due to lack of maintenance. It was thought that this would be a massive attraction and income generating source.
• Robust marketing of the area needed to be a priority in order for the reserve to survive. This would also have a spin off effect for the communities neighbouring the reserve.
• There was a massive Mosquito problem and some wondered whether there was anything that could be done to alleviate it.
10. **Way forward**
   The PAMP Unit of EKZNW would develop a draft plan. The Plan would then be published for public review. Once the stakeholder input had been received, the Plan would be finalised and submitted for approval through the various EKZNW committees and then on finally to the MEC or Minister for signature.

The meeting closed at 12h50.
APPENDIX C
SCANS OF ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SIPLENOK NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

To facilitate public input in developing the plan, you are invited to attend the Stakeholder Workshop that will be held at:

WEENEN NR
Date: 8th July 2013
Time: 10.00
Venue: Samora Hlophe Park

WEENEN NR
Date: 2nd July 2013
Time: 10.00
Venue: Samora Hlophe Park

SIPLENOK NR
Date: 3rd July 2013
Time: 10.00
Venue: Samora Hlophe Park

Multiple documents will be available one week prior to the meeting on the Ezemvelo website: www.wetlands.info

Following the various stakeholder meetings, incorporable, the input and comments received, draft Protected Area Management Plans will be developed and will be advertised for further public review and comment.

ILANGA >> JUNE 6-8, 2013
Izindaba

PUBLIC NOTICE
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SIPLENOK NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

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ILANGA >> JUNE 6-8, 2013
Izindaba

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ILANGA >> JUNE 6-8, 2013
Izindaba
PUBLIC NOTICE

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SPIDENKOP NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Crown Copyright 

(South Africa) Nature Reserves

(cc) is the designation management authority for the South African Nature Reserves Act, 114 of 1997 and is responsible for the completion of the Protected Area Management Plans for the Weenen Nature Reserve, Spidenkop Nature Reserve and Sileza Nature Reserve. The Spidenkop Nature Reserve is the National Environment Management: Protected Area Management Notice No. 1 of 2003. The Protected Area Management Plan will be available for public consultation in terms of the National Environment Management: Protected Area Management Notice No. 1 of 2003.

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

We are in the process of finalising the management plan for the Weenen Nature Reserve, Spidenkop Nature Reserve and Sileza Nature Reserve. As part of the public consultation process, we are inviting stakeholders to attend the following workshops:

WEENEN NATURE RESERVE

Date: 19 July 2013
Time: 10:00
Venue: Weenen New Hall

SPIDENKOP NATURE RESERVE

Date: 30 July 2013
Time: 10:00
Venue: Spidenkop Hall

SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

Date: 5 August 2013
Time: 10:00
Venue: Sileza Hall

Background documents will be available one week prior to the meeting. Contact Penny Chambers at 013 641 1400 or email chambers@sanwil.co.za to obtain the documents.

Following the various stakeholder meetings, incorporating the input and comments received, draft Protected Area Management Plans will be developed and advertised for further public review and comment.
PUBLIC NOTICE
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SPIEKNOP NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS
Commence activities under Proclamation 2 of the designated Management Authority. The project will be supported by the National Environment Management Act, No. 107 of 1998. The Management Plan is designed to provide a basis for understanding management framework and determine specific conservation objectives.

If you are interested in attending the stakeholder workshops, please contact the following:

Date: 16th July 2013
Time: 10:00
Venue: Twee Rivieren Hall
Confermed: Yes

Date: 26th July 2013
Time: 10:00
Venue: Twee Rivieren Hall
Confirmed: Yes

If you are interested in attending, please contact the following:

Contact: Penny Chambers
Tel: 039 145 1485
E-mail: pennychambers@skimiddle.com

Following the various stakeholder meetings, all stakeholders will be invited to attend the final public participation meeting. The Management Plans will be presented and will be available for further public review and comment.
## PUBLIC NOTICE

**STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS**

**WEENEN NATURE RESERVE**

**SPIEKENkop NATURE RESERVE**

**SILEZA NATURE RESERVE**

**PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS**

East London Metropole Municipality is the designated Management Authority for the Spiekenkop Nature Reserve (SP), Weenen Nature Reserve (WE) and Sileza Nature Reserve (SI). This designation is as a result of the conclusion of the Spiekenkop Nature Reserve Management Plan, which is a planning document that provides an overview of the plan, and is designed to guide the development and management of the reserve.

To facilitate public input in developing the plan, you are invited to attend the Stakeholder Workshop.

### Stakeholder Workshop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 July 2013</td>
<td>Weenen N.R.</td>
<td>Member, we have received the feedback and will be incorporated into the plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st July 2013</td>
<td>Spiekenkop N.R.</td>
<td>Member, we have received the feedback and will be incorporated into the plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st July 2013</td>
<td>Sileza N.R.</td>
<td>Member, we have received the feedback and will be incorporated into the plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members are encouraged to attend the workshops to provide comments on the draft management plans. Members will be provided with hard copies of the draft plans and an opportunity to comment. Comments can be submitted in writing to the contact person by 30 June 2013.

### Contact Person

Ferny Chambers

Tel: 044 591 1465

Email: chamber@zemel.com

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**SPIEKENkop NATURE RESERVE**

**PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT**

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**THE ZULULAND OBSERVER, JUNE 7, 2013**
PUBLIC NOTICE

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SPIEKENKOP NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Esomvalo Kusile-Kagiso (Esomvalo) is the designated Management Authority for the Spioenkop Nature Reserve (NCW), Weenen NR and Sileza NR and is responsible for the completion of the Protected Area Management Plans. For public release in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 107 of 2003. The Management Plan is a planning document that provides an overarching management framework and is currently being prepared to ensure maximum benefits from the reserve. The plan will be developed in collaboration with the local community. The public is invited to attend the stakeholder workshops. The workshops will be held in the following locations:

SILEZA NR
Michelin NR
SPIEKENKOP NR
Date: 9th July 2013
19th July 2013
3rd July 2013
Time: 10:00
10:00
10:00
Venue: Thanda Elephant Park Conference Room
Weenen Town Hall
Spioenkop NR
Meeting Room

Background documents for the workshops will be available online and will be uploaded to the Esomvalo website. You are invited to attend the workshop. Comments on the document will be welcomed by 31st August 2013. Should you wish to attend the meeting, please register through the contact details below by 20th June 2013.

Contact: Penny Chambers
Tel: (034) 345 1485
E-mail: pchambers@esomvalo.com

Following the various stakeholder meetings, incorporating the views and comments received, a draft Protected Area Management Plan will be developed and will be advertised for further public participation.
PUBLIC NOTICE
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SPIENKOP NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Emphasis is laid on stakeholder participation in the development of the proposed area management plans. Participation is welcomed through the following channels:

1. Written submissions to the Environmental Management Section of the SABS Nature Reserve Administration (State Forests and Parks Department),
2. Oral submissions at the stakeholder workshops,
3. Telephonic submissions to the Environmental Management Section of the SABS Nature Reserve Administration.

Public notices will be placed in local newspapers and on the SABS Nature Reserve Administration’s website.

The details of the stakeholder workshops are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature Reserve</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SILEZA NR</td>
<td>9th July 2013</td>
<td>10h00</td>
<td>Sable Elephant Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd July 2013</td>
<td>10h00</td>
<td>Sable Elephant Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIENKOP NR</td>
<td>2nd July 2013</td>
<td>10h00</td>
<td>Sable Elephant Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information, please contact Penny Chambers at 039 680 4260 or email chambers@knowvitude.com.

Following the various stakeholders' meetings, incorporating the input and comments received, the Protected Area Management Plan will be compiled and will be available for public review and comment.
By Manzoiwandle Hadebe
Vocalist Ringo Madlingozi who is currently on a six-city tour performing South African and international music, has for the first time touched the soul of Amathole Royal House.

Mr Madlingozi also a huge fan of amaHlubi, he came to pay homage to the King of amaHlubi in his greatest generation, as a sign of respect to his family and ancestors. He made a stopover at the office of Umtshezi Municipal Manager for a photo session with the Municipal Manager, the first lady and many others.

He said he was very honoured to meet Nkosikazi Mabhephu Buhlungu, after many years trying to communicate his ancestral messages through his music that he belongs to this clan. (Nkosikazi Hadebe is daughter of the late King Hlabisa. The annual festival will be marking the annual ceremony of Umtshezi on October 5, 2013. Celebrations from national government are expected to attend the event, which is dubbed the biggest in their history. Maybe Ringo Madlingozi may also be a guest.)

Newtown Crèche gets Lions share

On Thursday, August 29, Estcourt Lions donated toys to Newtown Crèche in Colenso. Pictured is Lions President Cecil Friend and Elizabeth who runs the crèche.

Donate liquid love this Thursday

Submitted by
Mr SM Dawoonarain

The South African National Blood Services will be holding a Blood donor clinic at the Estcourt Town Hall this Thursday, September 12 from 11am until 6pm. Be an organiser, become a regular donor. All new donors must be 16 years or older and weigh 50 kilograms or more.
TOP COP IN COURT

Lawyer sceptical of 2m fence claim

Hisham A Fullah

Hisham Fullah, a lawyer for the Pietermaritzburg Business and Professional Men's Club, said he wouldn’t support the implementation of a 2.1m steel fence at the Spioenkop Nature Reserve, an area that has been identified as a potential site for a new national park.

"The fence proposed by the provincial government is not necessary. The existing fence is sufficient and has been working well," Fullah said.

Fullah said that the proposed fence was too high and would affect the natural beauty of the reserve.

"We believe that the fence is unnecessary and that it will not protect the reserve," he said.

Residents fear pylons could cause leukaemia

Furaha Olanu

Residents of the Spioenkop Nature Reserve are concerned that the pylons that are being erected as part of the national grid project could cause leukaemia.

"We have heard that pylons can cause cancer," said Olanu. "We are worried that the pylons will affect our health and that of our children.

Medical scheme gets nod over its cancer drug ruling

KZN science star shines

Zanele Joffa

Zanele Joffa, a student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, has been named as the best student in the country.

"I am thrilled to have been named as the best student in the country," Joffa said.

Joffa said that she was grateful for the support she had received from her family and her teachers.

"I would like to thank my parents and my teachers for their support," she said.

The Spioenkop Nature Reserve is a protected area managed by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries. It is located in the KwaZulu-Natal province.
Shock double infant rape report

DUSCHANKA HEDEROTH

THE ZULULAND Observer was unable to confirm reports that a grandmother and a 12-month-old infant had been raped and were brought in from Swaziland to the Ngwamazane Nature Reserve. It could also not be ascertained if any suspects had been arrested.

The South Africa National Parks Conservation Officer at the Ngwamazane Hospital, Tiso Xaba, said the Observer had been one of the first to hear of these reports, which were gained from a reliable source in the medical profession, and returned home today to verify any comments regarding the conditions of the infants.

KapUSES at the Ngwamazane Nature Reserve have noted that the overall statistics for rape cases which are reported in Swaziland cannot be given out.

According to the report, Dr. Xaba of the hospital in Swaziland confirmed that investigations had been completed.

According to a study conducted by Umlazi, it is reported that 1% of the population were raped in 2012.

Bloody battlefield becomes peace symbol

LARRY BENTLEY

ARRANGEMENTS for the series of 75th anniversary commemorations to commemorate the 179th anniversary of the Battle of Blood River/Numbe are progressing well as the speaker programme takes shape.

The arrangements for the commemorations of the historical event and the commemoration of the Battle of Blood River/Numbe, the point of departure of the British, are currently being made in preparation for the commemorations.

The event is expected to take place and mark the country's future together.

The Battle of Blood River/Numbe on 15 December 1838 has become a defining moment in South African history, with the victory of the British Empire, a situation that has been described as the most significant of the last 150 years, but also for the growing black resistance to this.

These events are symbolic symbols, being the many years of struggle and belief that come to characterize South African history.

The museum opened in 1980 and is the nation's largest and oldest
to have a digital frame and the museum, now known as the Mandazi Museum (incorporating the Vundani) has become the happy meeting place of a multi-cultural capital of Kabini, while still maintaining the dark circles with events around the Battle of Blood River/Numbe.

Three museums we have been declared as symbols of historical significance, each with its own story to tell.

The museum, opened in 1980, is the nation's first national museum.

To the people who are not interested in the story, we have a story to tell. An important event, the Zulu Kingdom, was born.

To the people who are not interested in the story, we have a story to tell. An important event, the Zulu Kingdom, was born.

To the people who are not interested in the story, we have a story to tell. An important event, the Zulu Kingdom, was born.

To the people who are not interested in the story, we have a story to tell. An important event, the Zulu Kingdom, was born.
APPENDIX D
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

SPIOENKOP NATURE RESERVE

PREPARATION OF A PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Purpose of this document

- Inform stakeholders of the proposed protected area management plan.
- Invite stakeholders to participate in the process.

The Spioenkop Nature Reserve

The Spioenkop Nature Reserve which includes the well-known battlefield site on Spioenkop Mountain and the Spioenkop Dam is situated 35 km south west of the town of Ladysmith and 14 km north west of the small town of Winterton in the KwaZulu-Natal Province of the Republic of South Africa. The dam provides the main water supply for the town of Ladysmith.

The reserve falls within Okhahlamba Local Municipality and Uthukela District Municipality and the reserve comprises of 7283 hectares of which 1468 hectare forms the Spioenkop Dam.

The reserve offers nature based recreation opportunities including a variety of water sports, horse-riding, a vulture hide, game viewing and hiking. Spioenkop also offers unique vistas ranging from valley bushveld (with Acacia sieberiana one of the important species) to views of the Drakensberg Mountains (Giants Castle and Royal Natal).

The northern section of the reserve is a designated hunting area with limited controlled hunting packages offered on a yearly basis.

The reserve supports a number of key habitats and contributes to the conservation of several threatened and protected fauna and flora species including White rhino (Ceratotherium simum simum), KZN Yellowfish (Labeobarbus nataliensis), Hypoixis hemerocallidea and Merwilla natalensis.

The reserve is an Important Bird Area with Cape vulture (Gyps coprotheres) and Bearded Vulture (Gypaetus barbatus) utilizing the vulture restaurant. The grasslands in the reserve also provide habitat for Crowned cranes (Balearica regulorum) and Ground Hornbills (Bucorvus leadbeateri).

The reserve protects a portion of the KwaZulu-Natal Highland Thornveld which although it is considered Least Threatened is important in terms of the functionality of the Spioenkop Dam and also provides habitat for threatened and protected biodiversity.

The protected area management plan

Protected area management plans are intended to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (No.57 of 2003) in managing protected areas. Furthermore, they are designed to be high-level documents that provide a tool to assist Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in the strategic planning and management of the protected areas under its control.

Key management issues

A detailed review of ecological, cultural and social issues and management of the nature reserve has revealed the following:

- The state of both management and eco-tourism infrastructure and of specific concern is the state of the fence.
- Management of the cultural sites including the battlefields, Iron Age sites and the museum in collaboration with AMFA.
- Ecological challenges within the nature reserve that require management intervention include alien plant infestations, bush encroachment and illegal livestock grazing in the North-Shore section by the neighbouring community.
- Operational management challenges within the Spioenkop Nature Reserve that require management intervention include sufficient staff and an additional field ranger outposts, as well as equipment to effectively patrol and undertake law enforcement, maintenance of infrastructure and sufficient financial resources to implement the management plan.
• Eco-tourism management include identifying potential tourism opportunities and directional and interpretive signage required for visitors to the reserve.

Stakeholder consultation process

A principle of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife’s in preparing protected area management plans is collaboration and transparency. Efforts will be made to canvas stakeholders and obtain their inputs in the development of the plan. A stakeholder workshop has been advertised and will be held on the 3rd of July 2013 at the Spioenkop Nature Reserve Meeting Hall (10:00) to discuss the vision, objectives and management issues that needs to be addressed in the management plan. Once the draft protected area management plan has been prepared, it will be made available for public review and comment prior to its finalisation and submission to the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board and the MEC for Agriculture and Environmental Affairs.

If you or your organisation would like to participate in this process or would like any further information, please contact:

Magda Goosen  agouwm@ezenwane.com
            (033) 845 1469
APPENDIX E
COPIES OF STANDARD INVITATIONS SENT TO KNOWN STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE
SPIOENKOP NATURE RESERVE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (Ezemvelo) is the designated Management Authority for the Sileza Nature Reserve (NR), Weenen NR and Spioenkop NR and is responsible for the compilation of the Protected Area Management Plans for these reserves in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No.57 of 2003. The Management Plan is a planning document that provides an overarching management framework and zonation plan, compiled specifically for these nature reserves with the assistance of stakeholders through a public consultation process.

To facilitate public input in developing the plan, you are invited to attend the Stakeholder Workshop that will be held at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weenen NR</th>
<th>Sileza NR</th>
<th>Spioenkop NR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th July 2013</td>
<td>2nd July 2013</td>
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<td>Time:</td>
<td>10:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venue:</td>
<td>Toreh Elephant Park</td>
<td>Weenen Town Hall</td>
<td>Spioenkop NR</td>
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Conference Room | Conference Room | Conference Room

Background documents will be available one week prior to the meeting on the Ezemvelo website www.kznwildlife.com (Pathway for Weenen NR & Spioenkop NR is “Conservation” > “Public comment” > “West” and “East” for Sileza NR). Should you be unable to attend the workshop, comments on the document will be welcomed by 1 August 2013. Should you be attending the meeting, please register through the contact details below by 26 June 2013.

Contact: Penny Chambers 033 845 1465 chambersp@kznwildlife.com

Following the various stakeholder meetings, incorporating the input and comments received, draft Protected Area Management Plans will be developed and will be advertised for further public review and comment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME &amp; Surname</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Jan King</td>
<td>Mount Royal Conservancy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jking@conservancy.co.za">jking@conservancy.co.za</a></td>
<td>076 387 5905</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Jelliman</td>
<td>Sipkeekop Nature Reserve</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lauren.jelliman@srwa.co.za">lauren.jelliman@srwa.co.za</a></td>
<td>082 800 4350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keuren Robson</td>
<td>ENSA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebus@ensa.ens.org">rebus@ensa.ens.org</a></td>
<td>084 537 0106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Miller</td>
<td>Sipkeekop Nature Reserve</td>
<td><a href="mailto:e.miller@srwa.co.za">e.miller@srwa.co.za</a></td>
<td>012 722 2222</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Z Nasako</td>
<td>EKNW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:znasako@eknw.co.za">znasako@eknw.co.za</a></td>
<td>076 476 1850</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.R. Chambers</td>
<td>EKNW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chambers@eknw.co.za">chambers@eknw.co.za</a></td>
<td>082 082 4393</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Goosen</td>
<td>Wildlife Care</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mg@wildlife.co.za">mg@wildlife.co.za</a></td>
<td>079 876 2444</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.C. Longizane</td>
<td>Wildlife Care</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pclongizane@wildlife.co.za">pclongizane@wildlife.co.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>J.L. Mayuko</td>
<td>Wildlife Care</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jlmayuko@wildlife.co.za">jlmayuko@wildlife.co.za</a></td>
<td>093 177 9776</td>
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<tr>
<td>N.A. Sibanda</td>
<td>EKNW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sibanda@eknw.co.za">sibanda@eknw.co.za</a></td>
<td>074 477 1155</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.S. Maurice</td>
<td>22N Wildlife</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emaurice@22n.co.za">emaurice@22n.co.za</a></td>
<td>063 581 8968</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad Gordon</td>
<td>ESTEVENET JET</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chad.john@sheep.net">chad.john@sheep.net</a></td>
<td>0833698105</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angus Brathwaite</td>
<td>Dunns View Trust</td>
<td><a href="mailto:angus@sheep.net">angus@sheep.net</a></td>
<td>0823875666</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Henley</td>
<td>Spioenkop Lodge</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mhenley@sheep.net">mhenley@sheep.net</a></td>
<td>0845100665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pet Hoon</td>
<td>MRC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pet.hoon@sheep.net">pet.hoon@sheep.net</a></td>
<td>083666340</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fynne</td>
<td>Trecenna</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.fynne@sheep.net">john.fynne@sheep.net</a></td>
<td>0823804340</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carey Green</td>
<td>Neighbourhood</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carey.green@sheep.net">carey.green@sheep.net</a></td>
<td>0842721214</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roslyn Lees</td>
<td>MRC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:roselynn.lees@sheep.net">roselynn.lees@sheep.net</a></td>
<td>0823802746</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situmgwa Zawadi</td>
<td>Management TC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:situmgwa@sheep.net">situmgwa@sheep.net</a></td>
<td>0847213024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike &amp; Zawadi</td>
<td>Olhaxama Mmunguyi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mike.zawadi@sheep.net">mike.zawadi@sheep.net</a></td>
<td>0703621108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX G
STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATION - SPIOENKOP NATURE RESERVE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

2013/10/09

Spioenkop Nature Reserve

Agenda
1. Opening and Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Why The Process
4. Purpose of the meeting
5. Values of Spioenkop Nature Reserve
7. Management issues, opportunities, threats & interventions
8. Way Forward

Why PAMPS
- NEMPA Act No 57 of 2003
- Inform management at all levels
- Primary strategic tool for management of the nature reserve
- Provide motivations for budgets
- Build accountability
- Capacity building, future thinking and continuity
- Develop and manage SHR – protect values and the purpose for which it was created

Spioenkop NR

3. The Process

Preparation of Draft Management Plan
- Spioenkop Nature Reserve
- Professional planning
- Community involvement
- Public input
- Draft submission to Department for approval
- Draft approval
- Finalizing
- Drawings and documentation
- Finally approved
- Public participation
- Finalized Plan
- Public participation
- Finalized Plan
- Public participation
- Finalized Plan
- Finalized Plan
- Finalized Plan

Stakeholder Workshop
Protected Area Management Plan Development
3rd of July 2013
Spioenkop NR Meeting Room
Purpose of meeting

Source input from stakeholders before preparing the draft plan:
- Values and vision of the reserve
- Issues, threats, opportunities and interventions required

Values of Spioenkop NR

The values of a place are those remarkable attributes that exemplify it and are largely the reason that it has been proclaimed as a protected area. The values are important in planning and management, as they are the aspects of the place that must be protected.

The Values (Continue)

Natural
- An unaltered area of original natural linearity
- Plant and animal populations comprising genetically distinct and important plant and animal species and genetically distinct plant and animal species, and
- Representative vegetation types
- Protection of a range of habitats and natural processes unique to the site
- Learning and research opportunities

Social
- Permanent and temporary job opportunities
- Awareness, recreation and sense of place

Cultural
- Learning and research opportunities
- Bloodbark sites related to the Second Anglo-Boer War
- Late Iron Age settlement sites

The Vision

The vision describes the overall long-term goal for the operation, protection and development of SNR.
The Vision Continue

- Conservation of biodiversity
- Conservation of cultural assets
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Sustainable eco-tourism

Management issues, opportunities, threats and interventions

- State of management and eco-tourism facilities
- State of roads and fences (thefting and vandalizing of fences)
- Illegal cattle grazing inside the reserve (north shore)
- Management of the museum and battlefield site
- Accelerated Erosion control
- Environmental Awareness
- Maintenance of the vulture hide

Management issues, opportunities, threats and interventions

- Feral cats at offices
- Security of game
- Cultural assets management
- Natural resource use
- Internal signage
- Development and maintenance of eco-tourism facilities

Management issues, opportunities, threats and interventions

- Human animal conflict
- Fire management
- Threatened and protected species management
- Sufficient and consistent funding
- Sufficient human resources
- Improved communication with stakeholders
- Invasive plant control (Piglet and Lantana)

Way Forward

- Development of draft plan
- Plan published for public review
- Plan finalised and submitted for approval