WEENEN 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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STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

Weenen Nature Reserve is situated on the Draycott Plain in the centre of KwaZulu-Natal Province of the Republic of South Africa. The protected area lies south of the R74 provincial road, approximately eight km west of Weenen and 28 km from the town of Estcourt; within the Uthukela District Municipality and the Umtshezi Local Municipality region.

The reserve is located approximately 30 km north east of Wagendrift Nature Reserve and approximately 45 km south east of Spioenkop Nature Reserve. The Bushman’s River, which is a tributary of the Tugela River, runs through the southern section of the reserve.

Weenen was proclaimed a nature reserve on 1 April 1975, in subsequent years additional land, south of the Bushman’s River, was added to the protected area, increasing its size to 4185.64 hectare. The protected area extends from 28° 49’ 48” S to 28° 55’ 48” S and from 29° 57’ 36” E to 30° 03’ 00” E and, it is more or less triangular in shape and has a maximum length of 11.65 km and breadth of 7.82 km. The altitude of the area ranges from 900 m to 1311 m a.s.l. The section of the protected area south of the Bushman’s River is not accessible from the northern section due to difficult terrain, but is accessible from the south via the private farm Selbourne 1311. The reserve is bordered on the north east by Weenen Townlands, whilst the remaining surrounding land consists mostly of agricultural land uses and communal grazing areas.

The reserve is ideally situated close to major towns such as Pietermaritzburg, Ladysmith and Estcourt and is ideal for tourists and people of the district who are fond of wildlife.

Weenen Nature Reserve is a key component of the protected area system in the region of KwaZulu-Natal. It is an Important Bird Area with Cape vulture (Gyps coprotheres) and grassland birds such as Ground hornbill (Bucorvus leadbeaterrii) present in the reserve. It is also the wintering ground of many species of Highveld birds which migrate to avoid the extreme temperature.

The reserve contains a small population of the Endangered Black rhino (Diceros bicornis) and a medium population of the Near Threatened White rhino (Ceratotherium simum). These animals provide a regular supply of animals for auction to seed and support other populations. The maintenance and security of these species is a priority. The reserve protects important vegetation types including KwaZulu-Natal Highveld Thornveld, Thukela Thornveld and Thukela Valley Bushveld. Plant species of importance include Barleria greenii and Barleria argillicola.

The full extent of the nature reserve and surrounding areas is claimed by the Izigwoza Community and even though settlement has been reached post settlement planning has not been completed yet.

Also bordering the reserve on the south west is the Community Conservation Areas Umsuluzi and Umthontwane which could potentially be incorporated into the reserve subject to the resolution of certain settlement and operational challenges, these include game ownership (Umthontwane) and tenants living on the land.

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 Weenen 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 Weenen Nature Reserve.

1.2 Approach and objectives of the consultation process

The approach to consultation in preparing the management plan for Weenen 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 Weenen 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, Isoloswe, 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 Weenen Town Hall on 2 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, Isoloswe, Mercury, Estcourt and Midland
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.

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

**Table 1.1 Summary of the protected area management plan development process**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 June 2013</td>
<td>Adverts for stakeholder workshop in Ilanga, 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>2 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>November 2013</td>
<td>Submit final document to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife committees for approval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adverts were also placed at the following areas:

- Weenen Combined School
- Distributed through the Buffer Technical Committee
2) KEY FINDINGS OF THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

During the stakeholder workshop and interactions with stakeholders the following issues were raised:

The Weenen Nature Reserve is divided by the P 13 district road between Estcourt and the town of Weenen. The public traverses this road daily and many road accidents take place, especially at night time when game crossing the road cannot be seen clearly. Poaching in the reserve is at unacceptable levels and this takes place mainly along the P 13 district road and in areas that are inaccessible and not easily patrolled. Access control is not sufficiently effective to prevent people entering the reserve legally from taking part in illegal activities once they are inside the nature reserve. The fence line in the south-eastern section of the reserve is absent due to stealing and vandalising which presents a further threat to the security of biodiversity in the reserve. The full extent and beyond the nature reserve is claimed by the Izigwoza Community, although settlement has been reached post settlement planning has not been completed yet. On the north west of the reserve is the Community Conservation Areas Umsuluzi as well as Umthontwane, the latter could potentially be incorporated into the reserve subject to the resolution of certain settlement and operational challenges, these include game ownership and tenants living on the land.

Infrastructure maintenance is a great concern and tourist roads have deteriorated to such a level that some have become dangerous or unusable to visitors to the reserve. Tourism infrastructure needs urgent attention to promote tourism activities and encourage return visits to the reserve.
3) COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

No formal comments were received during the review period; all comments raised in the stakeholder workshop have been integrated into the management plan.
REFERENCES

APPENDIX A

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ORGANISATION</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Umtshezi Local Municipality</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elphas@mtshezi.gov.za">elphas@mtshezi.gov.za</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Rossouw</td>
<td>AMAFA</td>
<td>ama@<a href="mailto:pmbz@mweb.co.za">pmbz@mweb.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:celrossouw@gmail.com">celrossouw@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School principal</td>
<td>Weenen Combined School</td>
<td>073737293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M de Pontes</td>
<td>Weenen Farmers Association</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jjdeponette@telkomsa.net">jjdeponette@telkomsa.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakkie van Zydam</td>
<td>Neighbour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Rotcher</td>
<td>Neighbour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Zwane</td>
<td>Local council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induna Khipa Nzimande</td>
<td>Tribal council</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Induna Zulu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Induna Mchunu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Induna Nsele</td>
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<tr>
<td>Induna Hadebe</td>
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Contacted via the reserve manager
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B Mackay</td>
<td>Neighbouring farmer (Nontetha)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brumackay@gmail.com">brumackay@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Buys</td>
<td>Neighbouring farmer (Zingela Safari)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zingela@zingelasafaris.co.za">zingela@zingelasafaris.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Dorfling</td>
<td>Neighbouring farmer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecdorfling@lantic.net">ecdorfling@lantic.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L Laatz</td>
<td>Ween-en Petrol Station</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nwstation@telkomsa.net">nwstation@telkomsa.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B van der Bank</td>
<td>HO</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bvdb@sai.co.za">bvdb@sai.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uthukela District Municipality</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wynand@uthukeladmc.co.za">wynand@uthukeladmc.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Umshezi Local Municipality</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jay@mtshezi.co.za">jay@mtshezi.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:zakhona@gmail.com">zakhona@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DLA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cjjaitken@dl.gov.za">cjjaitken@dl.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Theron</td>
<td>Birdlife SA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kzn@birdlife.org.za">kzn@birdlife.org.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Rushton</td>
<td>COGTA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craig.rushton@kznlgta.gov.za">craig.rushton@kznlgta.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Farley</td>
<td>Wildlands Conservation Trust</td>
<td>Graeme Farley <a href="mailto:GraemeF@wildlands.co.za">GraemeF@wildlands.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Viljoen</td>
<td>WWF</td>
<td>Sue Viljoen <a href="mailto:sviljoen@wwf.org.za">sviljoen@wwf.org.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Roseban</td>
<td>Umntontwane Manager</td>
<td>0363547003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T van der Westhuyzen</td>
<td>Neighbouring farmer</td>
<td>0832574858</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MINUTES OF THE THE WEENEN STAKEHOLDERS’ WORKSHOP
HELD AT THE WEENEN TOWN HALL ON 2 JULY 2013 AT 10H00

1. **Opening and Welcome**

   The Facilitator welcomed all those present.
   Attendance for the workshop is as per the attached Attendance Register.
   Apologies : Mr S McKean – Resource Use Ecologist - EKZNW

2. **Introductions**

   Those present introduced themselves.

3. **Why PAMPS?**

   - In terms of the NEMPA 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 WNR in order to protect its values and the purpose for which it was created.

4. **The Weenen Nature Reserve**

   As all those present know the Weenen Nature Reserve extremely well, no overview was given.

5. **The process**

   The process of developing 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 Weenen 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 values were identified by stakeholders:

- The area is viewed as an important tourist and recreation area with potential economic and job opportunities.
- Protect the reserve from degradation and soil erosion and preservation of the area as it is currently.
- Weenen is one of the 3 Voortrekker towns and it has iron-age sites, some of which are in the Weenen NR.
- Cultural site. It is acknowledged that there are cultural values in the reserve which will require further investigation from AMAFA.
- Biodiversity values.
- Natural resource use – such as grass and reeds.

The following were values identified by EKZNW:

- An untransformed area of unique natural beauty.
- Successful rehabilitation of the land and re-colonisation of animals after devastating erosion issue due to over-farming as far back as 1850.
- Protection of the portion of the Bushman’s River running through the reserve.
- Provide protection for threatened and endangered species and important vegetation types.
- 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. The focus is especially on the water services to the downstream agricultural users.
- Recreation and eco-tourism opportunities.
- Opportunities and facilities for environmental awareness.
- Permanent and temporary job opportunities.
- Awareness, recreation and sense of place.
• Traditional Zulu homesteads which are stone built. The stone structures constitute a record of conservative rural change in South Africa around the time of the Second World War.
• The history of WNR is linked with the cycle of labour tenant occupation, environmental degradation expropriation, soil conservation and nature conservation.
• Living heritage - traditional values. AMAFA will assist in writing up a value statement for this.

8. **Vision for Weenen Nature Reserve**

The Facilitator advised that the vision describes the overall long-term goal for the operation, protection and development of WNR.

The following principles were raised by the stakeholders:
- It was felt that Conservation was extremely important as it related directly to the wellbeing of Weenen.
- If the reserve was not maintained there would be no reason for tourists to visit the area and there would be no financial spin off.

EKZNW had identified the following principle’s for incorporation in the values:
- Conservation of biodiversity.
- Conservation of cultural assets.
- Collaboration with stakeholders.

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

The workshop then focussed on issues requiring management interventions as well as opportunities and threats.

The following management issues were raised by stakeholders:
- It was felt that there should be a maintenance plan in the reserve that will ensure regular maintenance of roads, buildings and fences.
- There is a need to market the reserve properly and there is an opportunity for collaboration with the Municipality for the mutual benefit of both the reserve and the community. This includes directional signage to the reserve.
- Water supply and reticulation – bore holes for staff (lack of fresh water supply influence staff morale and health) – some of the boreholes have collapsed – the cost of new boreholes is very expensive costing in the region of R250 000 each. There is a need for an assessment of the
water needs of the reserve and based on that a way forward will be determined.

- Upgrade the infrastructure for the whole reserve, this.
- Environmental education to translate the importance of preserving the reserve and the surrounding area.
- There is a need to encourage children’s groups to visit the reserve and provide a sound understanding of conservation and its importance.
- There is not enough visitation from the local community.
- Improve and maintain the bush camp.
- There used to be a program to bring school busses to the reserve and this is not happening as often as it used to. There is also a need to provide kids with a meal whilst on a day visit to the reserve. There is an opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders and specifically with municipalities on this after doing a need assessment.
- It was indicated that overseas visitors want specific types of facilities e.g. coffee shops and they want to see Rhino which they do not always see. It was explained that reserves are huge areas and not like zoos where animals are lined up. What do need to happen is that the facilities such as roads needs to be regularly maintained with directional signage in place to allow visitors the best opportunities for game viewing.
- AMAFA suggested a cultural trail that could be developed in conjunction with the University of KZN.
- Outcomes of the land claims process need to be implemented. There is a need to sort out the paper work and move forward as there is no dispute involved with this claim.
- Sustainability of the maintenance of the reserve through continued funding.

These issues as seen by EKZNW:
The outcome of the land claim must be implemented.

- State of management and eco-tourism facilities.
- State of roads and fences (stealing and vandalising of fences).
- Corridor road – human safety, animals killed, speeding, security risk, signage and poaching.
- Poaching – especially in inaccessible areas.
- Security strategy needs to be in place.
- Cultural assets require assessment from AMAFA.
- Accelerated erosion control.
- Bush encroachment.
- Natural resource use.
- Human animal conflict.
- Fire management.
- Threatened and protected species management.
- Environmental awareness.
- Sufficient and consistent funding.
- Sufficient human resources.
- Improved communication with stakeholders.

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 12h30.
APPENDIX C
SCANS OF ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF
PUBLIC NOTICE
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SPIENO Kop NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

The W EEPROM End Wildlife (EEP) is the designated Management Authority for the W EEPROM End Nature Reserve, Weennen NR and Spienkoppie NR and is responsible for the evaluation of the Protected Area Management Plans for these reserves in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act of 2003. The Management Plan is a planning document that provides an overarching management framework and is currently being developed.

To facilitate an open, transparent and participatory process in developing the Management Plan, a series of stakeholder workshops will be held. These workshops are intended to facilitate input from all stakeholders, and the information will be used to shape and influence the content of the Management Plan.

The workshops will be held at:

SILEZA NR
Date: 19th July 2013
Time: 10h00
Venue: Spiena Elephant Park Conference Room
Weennen Town Hall
Spienkoppie NR Meeting Room

Background documents will be available one week prior to the meeting at the EEEP website: www.eeepwildlife.com.

If you are unable to attend the workshops, your 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: 032-266 1446
E-mail: chambers@weenenwildlife.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.

THE WITNESS, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2013
PUBLIC NOTICE
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SPIENKOP NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Western Cape Nature Conservation is the Designated Management Authority for the Weenen Nature Reserve (WNR), Reserve Nr 6 and Spienkop NR and is responsible for the compilation of the Protected Area Management Plans (PAM) for these reserves in accordance with the Nature Conservation Management (Protected Areas) Act, 58 of 2010.

The Management Plan is a planning document that provides an overarching management framework and strategic 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>Reserve</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Tembu Elephant Park Conference Room</td>
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<td>Weenen Nr</td>
<td>3rd July 2013</td>
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<td>3rd July 2013</td>
<td>1000</td>
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Background documents will be available one week prior to the meeting on the Ewcwca website: www.ewe-nature.org. (Partnership for Weenen NR & Spienkop NR in a Conservation). Public comments can be read and “Draft” for Spienkop Nr. Should you be unable to attend the workshop, comments on the document will be welcomed by the 31st July 2013. Should you be attending the meeting, please register through the contact details below by 20 June 2013.

Contact: Penny Chambers
Tel: 021 864 1444
E-mail: chambers@ewe-nature.org

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.

WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN — PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT
Acclaimed vocalist pays homage to amaHlubi


donza uMlamzibuko, Nkosil Hadebe's praise singer Njabenhle Hadebe, Nkosil Hadebe, donza uMlamzibuko and Ringo Madlingozi.

Umtshezi Municipal Manager Nonhlanhla Njoko, Ringo Madlingozi and first lady Mukelisiwe Dlamini.

By Manzolwandle Hadebe

Vocalist Ringo Madlingozi who is currently the strongest voice performing South African and international music arts has for the first time touched the soul of amaHlubi Royal House.

Madlingozi who is also a Hitwe came to pay homage to the King of amaHlubi as his greatest passion for amaHlubi and the King of amaHlubi. He made a stopover at the offices of Umtshezi Municipal for a photo session with the Municipal Manager, the first lady and many others. He said he was very honoured to meet Njabenhle Hadebe, a passionate amaHlubi.

He said he had been trying to communicate his ancestral messages through his music and that he belongs to this class. Njabenhle Hadebe then launched a post as a gesture to connect the voices spiritually with his ancestry. Madlingozi then stopped over for a small ceremony and promised to come back to perform in Estcourt, saying he hasn't given the people here a taste of his live music. The amaHlubi will be marking their annual ceremony of Longanibale on October 5, 2019. Celebrations from national government are expected to attend the event, which is celebrated the biggest in their history. May he be Ringo Madlingozi may also be a great.

Casual Friday at Spar

Estcourt Spar staff celebrated Casual Day with enthusiasm.

Prizes were given to the best dressed staff members.

Best dressed from left to right: Phakamani Khanyoza, Bonga Phakathi, Hlengibhume Moko, Luvashene Jngushal, Noluthando Siholoh and Lungile Mhlanga.

Newtown Crèche gets Lions share

On Thursday, August 29, Estcourt Lions donated toys to Newtown Crèche in Colenso. Pictured is Lions President Ceifl 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 drive at the Estcourt Town Hall this Thursday, September 12 from 11am until 5pm. Be an organisation, become a regular donor. All new donors must be 16 years or older and weigh 50 kilograms or more.

CALL FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

For further information, please contact:

Nkosil Hadebe

W E E N E N  N A T U R E  R E S E R V E


19
UMjikijelwa usolwa ngokusola iNdidane ngokuthakathika

EZOKUNGCEBELEKA: Ulfonelwa ngabalondelani bamthuke

UMHLANGANO NOMPHAKATO WOSUKUYEKEZA
• FORT ROTHSCHILD NATURE RESERVE
• KOLENSHA NATURE RESERVE
• SUNDUMBA NATIVE RESERVE

Untho Lokweyangelela (Wosukuyekela)

UMHLANGANO NOMPHAKATO WOSUKUYEKEZA
• FORT ROTHSCHILD NATURE RESERVE
• KOLENSHA NATURE RESERVE
• SUNDUMBA NATIVE RESERVE

Untho Lokweyangelela (Wosukuyekela)

Umkovhelelela

UMHLANGANO NOMPHAKATO WOSUKUYEKEZA
• FORT ROTHSCHILD NATURE RESERVE
• KOLENSHA NATURE RESERVE
• SUNDUMBA NATIVE RESERVE

Untho Lokweyangelela (Wosukuyekela)
Uthathhekile ngamashiko amaZulu owaseDRC

BONGI ZULAMA

NIJUGI LemuzaLifebhe Ekhaya

UWENEN NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

21
TOP COP IN COURT

Lawyer sceptical of 2m fence claim

Harriett Rogberg

Maj-Gen Robert Botha-Zulu appeared in the Pretoria Supreme Court on Monday.

The case, which is related to a shooting incident in 2018, was put over to Tuesday.

Botha-Zulu was granted bail on two charges, including possession of a firearm without a licence and possession of a prohibited firearm.

His lawyer, Advocate Themba Mkhize, said he was not sure if his client would be able to meet the bail conditions.

"We are still in the process of gathering evidence," Mkhize said.

Residents fear pylons could cause leukaemia

A residents' association in the Eben-Ezer area in Durban is concerned about the location of pylons near their homes.

The association is calling for the pylons to be moved, as they believe they could cause health problems.

"We have been living near these pylons for years and we are worried about the health effects," a resident said.

Medical scheme gets nod over its cancer drug ruling

A medical scheme has received approval for a new cancer drug.

The drug, which is called 'Therapy', has been approved by the National Health Authority.

The scheme said the drug would be available to all its members.

Bulgarian has swimming record in the bag

Miroslav Stoyanov has set a new swimming record.

Stoyanov swam 100m in a time of 1 minute and 20 seconds, breaking the previous record by 1 second.

KZN science star shines

Lizaat Jansen

Lizaat Jansen, a student at the University of Stellenbosch, has won a science competition.

Jansen won the award for her project on renewable energy.

"I am very happy to have won," Jansen said.

News

Durban singer sticking together in idols guest

Durban singer, Tiffani, is appearing on the show Idols as a guest.

"I am excited to be on Idols," Tiffani said.

Sedgefield's Warbird, veteran of World War II, goes on show

The Warbird, a historic aircraft, is on display in Sedgefield.

"It is a privilege to have this aircraft on show," said the mayor of Sedgefield.

SAF photo day

The South African Air Force has released a photo of a military aircraft.

"It is a great honour to have this photo," said the spokesperson for the SAF.

Eastsound to split community

A community in Eastsound has decided to split.

"We have had enough of the division," said a member of the community.

Weenen Nature Reserve

Protected Area Management Plan – Public Participation Report

22
Court staff call for witness fees for victims

NORDI VELLEMAH

Court officials have proposed a new way of approaching the issue of witness fees, suggesting a method where witnesses can be compensated for their time and trouble. The proposal is part of a broader initiative to improve the legal system's handling of witness fees, which have been a contentious issue in recent years.

The proposal outlines a framework where witnesses would be paid in a manner that is transparent and fair, taking into account factors such as the length of the trial, the witness's profession, and the economic status of the witness. The aim is to ensure that witnesses are not disadvantaged by the cost of testifying, thereby encouraging more people to come forward as witnesses.

The proposal has received mixed reactions, with some legal professionals expressing concerns about the potential for abuse and the impact on the judicial system. Others have welcomed the initiative as a step towards improving the situation for witnesses.

Prostitutes' case dismissed

Johannesburg – A South African court has dismissed the case against four women accused of soliciting clients in a prostitution ring. The court ruled that the evidence presented did not meet the legal standards required for a conviction.

The case involved allegations that four women had solicited clients for a prostitution service. The court heard that the prosecution had presented evidence of the women's involvement in the service, but found that the evidence was insufficient to prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

The court's decision has been welcomed by human rights organizations, which had been advocating for the rights of the women involved. The organizations had argued that the women were victims of exploitation and should not be blamed for their involvement in the service.

The case has sparked debate about the legal framework for dealing with prostitution, with some calling for reforms to better protect the rights of sex workers.
APPENDIX D
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

WEENEN 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 Weenen Nature Reserve
Weenen Nature Reserve is situated on the Draycott Plain in the centre of KwaZulu-Natal Province of the Republic of South Africa. The reserve lies south of the R74 provincial road, approximately eight km west of Weenen and 28km from the town of Estcourt.

The reserve falls within Umtsheli Local Municipality and Uthukela District Municipality and the reserve comprises of 4923 hectares and supports a number of key habitats and contributes to the conservation of several threatened or protected fauna and flora species.

The reserve is an Important Bird Area with Cape vulture (Gyps coprotheres) and grassland birds such as Ground hornbill present in the reserve.

The reserve protects important vegetation types including KwaZulu-Natal Highveld Thornveld, Thukela Thornveld and Thukela Valley Bushveld. Plant species of importance include Tugela milkwood, Barleria greenii and Barleria orgillicola while important fauna species include both White - and Black rhino, Leopard and Aardvark.

The history of Weenen Nature Reserve is linked with the cycle of labour tenants occupation, environmental degradation, reclamation, soil conservation and nature conservation. Some of the stone structures constitute a record of conservative rural change in South Africa around the time of the Second World War.

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, the absence of the fence in the south-eastern part of the reserve the absence and of specific concern is the state of the roads that are used by management and the public.
- The outcome of a land claim process that includes potential expansion needs to be implemented and resolution of issues around beneficitation and tenants should be clarified and resolved. The Settlement Agreement regarding the ownership of Weenen Game Reserve by the Ikagga Community needs to be obtained and implemented.
- There is a need to improve relationships with communities; improve interaction with local and district municipalities and key stakeholders in general.
- Ecological challenges within the nature reserve that require management intervention include infestations of invasive plant species, bush encroachment and soil erosion.
- Operational management challenges within the nature reserve that require management intervention include, protection of threatened species such as rhino, the illegal livestock grazing in the south-eastern part of the reserve, sufficient staff and equipment to effectively patrol and undertake law enforcement, maintenance of infrastructure
and sufficient financial resources to implement the management plan.

- Security concerns relating to the P 13 district road that traverses the reserve include the risk to human life due to accidents involving animals, poaching and access control measures that needs to be implemented.
- Signage warning the public that they are entering the reserve and should adapt their speed for safety purposes should be set up at the entrance of the reserve from the Estcourt side.

**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 2nd of July 2013 at the Weenen Town 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  
goosemm@kznwildlife.com  
(033) 845 1469
APPENDIX E

COPIES OF STANDARD INVITATIONS SENT TO KNOWN STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP AND REVIEW

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

WEENEN NATURE RESERVE
SPIONKOP NATURE RESERVE
SILEZA NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (Ezemvelo) is the designated Management Authority for the Silzea Nature Reserve (NR), Weenen NR and Spionkop 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>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silzea NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weenen NR</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Weenen Town Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spionkop NR</td>
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<td>Meeting Room</td>
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Background documents will be available one week prior to the meeting on the Ezemvelo website www.kznwildlife.com (Pathway for Weenen NR & Spionkop NR is “Conservation” > “Public comment” > “West” and “East” for Silzea 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 033 815 1465 chamberp@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.
## APPENDIX F

SCANNED COPIES OF ATTENDANCE REGISTER WEE NEN NATURE RESERVE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME &amp; SURNAME</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>K. N. Ntsondie</td>
<td>Comm Manager</td>
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<td>072 254 1013</td>
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<td>N. Z. Mthethwa</td>
<td>Mngt. Mgr.</td>
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<td>M. Nkosi</td>
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<td>Mabuza</td>
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APPENDIX G
STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS

2013/10/08

Weenen Nature Reserve

Stakeholder Workshop
Protected Area Management Plan Development
2nd of July 2013
Weenen Townhall

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 IWR – protect values and the purpose for which it was created

Weenen NR

Size: 4323 ha
Protected: Yes
Western LV
HA

Weenen NR

Agenda
1. Opening and Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Why PAMPS
4. The Weenen Nature Reserve
5. The Process
6. Purpose of the meeting
7. Values of Weenen Nature Reserve
8. Vision for Weenen Nature Reserve
9. Management issues, opportunities, threats and interventions
10. Way forward

3. The Process

Preparation of draft management plan

- Final draft plan
- Internal approval
- Board approval
- NWC approval

Preparation of draft plan

Site gathering

2. Key values

Finalisation and implementation of plan

Weenen NP

www.townhall.com

www.townhall.com

www.townhall.com

www.townhall.com
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 Weenen 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)
Nature
- An untransformed piece of unique natural beauty
- Successful rehabilitation of the land and re-consolidation of animals after a devastating flood event due to over-farming as far back as 1950

The Values (Continue)
Natural (Cont)
- Protection of the portion of the Bushman’s River running through the reserve
- Provision of protection for threatened and endangered species and important vegetation types

The Values (Continue)
Eco-True
- Therapeutic and educational opportunities
- Biodiversity, recreation and nature of place

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

- Conservation of biodiversity
- Conservation of cultural assets
- Collaboration with stakeholders

Management issues, opportunities, threats and interventions

- Human animal conflict
- Fire management
- Threatened and protected species management
- Environmental Awareness
- Sufficient and consistent funding
- Sufficient human resources
- Improved communication with stakeholders

Management issues, opportunities, threats and interventions

- The outcome of the land claim must be implemented:
  - Potential expansion
  - Game ownership
  - Tenants
  - State of management and eco-tourism facilities
  - State of roads and fences (stealing and vandalizing of fences)

Way Forward

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

Management issues, opportunities, threats and interventions

- Corridor road – human safety, animals killed, speeding, security risk, signage and poaching
- Poaching – especially in inaccessible areas
- Cultural assets require assessment from AMAFA
- Accelerated erosion control
- Bush encroachment
- Natural resource use