Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve

KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

Protected Area Management Plan:
Public Participation Report
June 2013

Prepared by
Brousse-James & Associates and
Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Protected Area Management Planning Unit
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1 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve covers an area of 76 ha and is situated in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, some 5 km north of the centre of Durban. It lies between the Ruth First Highway (M4) and the sea, stretching from the Mgeni Estuary in the south, to the Beachwood Golf Course in the north. Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve was proclaimed in 1977 and the Mangrove Swamps were proclaimed as a National Monument in 1977.

It is an important estuarine habitat at the mouth of the Mgeni River in Durban, and is the largest population of mangrove trees in the Durban area. Associated with the mangroves are a number of conservation important animal species, which also have a limited distribution in KwaZulu-Natal.

The nature reserve is closed to the public, unless by prior arrangement, when supervised education groups are permitted access. A roving field ranger is on duty during the day, but the office is open at irregular hours. No accommodation, caravanning or camping facilities are available.

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 Beachwood Mangroves 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, when compiling a management plan for a protected area, consultation is required with municipalities, other organs of state, local communities and other affected parties which have an interest in the 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 Beachwood Mangroves.

1.2 Approach and objectives of the consultation process

The approach to consultation in preparing the management plan for Beachwood Mangroves has been to target communities in the area around the nature reserve, together with municipalities, relevant government authorities and other key stakeholders. The process has been aimed 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 nature reserve are aware of its importance and the conservation imperatives that formed the basis for its proclamation.
- Discuss and agree on the values of Beachwood Mangroves 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 nature 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 nature 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 participation process for the compilation of the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve Protected Area Management Plan commenced with the compilation of a Background Information Document, which was sent out with a notice to pre-identified key stakeholders. The notice included an invitation to attend a Public Stakeholder Workshop, to be held in a meeting room at the KZN Sharks Board offices, on the 29 January 2013, at 10h00. Because stakeholders for Beachwood Nature Reserve and Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve would mostly be the same people, the meetings for the two nature reserves were planned to run on the same day, commencing with Beachwood Mangroves and followed by Umhlanga Lagoon, after a short lunch break.

Apart from being sent to targeted stakeholders, the notice was also published in the following newspapers, on the following dates:

i. The Mercury (11/01/13);
ii. Isolezwe (11/01/13);
iii. The Witness (18/01/13);
iv. North Glen News (week ending 25/01/13); and
v. South Coast Herald (18/01/13).

Copies of the advertisements can be found in Appendix B. These advertisements included reference to Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve, Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve and Mpenjati Nature Reserve Public Stakeholder Workshops, since all three were being compiled by the same consultant, during the same time frames.

The newspaper advertisements stated that the Background Information Document would be available from Brousse-James & Associates, and would also be available on the Ezemvelo website, www.kznwildlife.com (Pathway: “Conservation” > “Public comment” > “Coast region” with the protected area name and the word BID in the file name).
The advertisements included a note that, should Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP’s) be unable to attend the Public Stakeholder Workshops, the document would remain available and comments would be welcomed until 15 February 2013. For planning purposes, (I&AP’s) were asked to please register for the Workshops by the 25 January 2013.

The Public Stakeholder Workshop for Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve was duly held on the 29 January 2013 and minutes for the Workshop can be found in Appendix F.

Apart from the public participation process, there was also an internal Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Review process which took place. The main point of contact between Barry James, of Brousse-James & Associates, and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, was Irene Hatton of the Planning Unit. She was assisted by Magda Goosen, also of the Planning Unit. Consultation also took place with Scientific Services and line management staff.

A draft Protected Area Management Plan was compiled and, after review by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Planning Department, it was made available to the public. Interested and Affected Parties were notified and invited to comment on the document by means of targeted e-mails and newspaper advertisements, in the following newspapers, on the following dates:

i. The Mercury (04/03/13);
ii. Isolezwe (04/03/13);
iii. The Witness (08/03/13);
iv. North Glen News (week ending 08/03/13); and
v. South Coast Herald (01/03/13).

Copies of the advertisements can be found in Appendix B. As with the initial notification of the process and public meetings, these advertisements included reference to Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve, Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve and Mpenjati Nature Reserve.

The newspaper advertisement stated that the draft Protected Area Management Plan would be available for public review and comment, in order to facilitate further public input, on the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife website at (Pathway: “Conservation” > “Public comment” > “Coast region” with the protected area name and the word PAMP in the file name). Printed copies of the draft Protected Area Management Plan were also placed for viewing at the Umhlanga, La Lucia and Broadway public libraries and the eThekwini Municipality Planning offices. The closing date for comments was given as 25 March 2013.

A meeting, to discuss both Beachwood Mangroves and Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserves, was held between Cameron McLean, of eThekwini Municipality, and Barry James, on 31 March 2013.

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>14/12/2012</td>
<td>Internal meeting with Ezemvelo staff in Durban to plan PAMP development process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-25/01/2013</td>
<td>Advertising PAMP development process and Public Stakeholder Workshop in five newspapers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/01/2013</td>
<td>Stakeholder Workshop at KZN Sharks Board meeting room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/02/2013</td>
<td>Internal Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife meeting with the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve protected area planning committee to finalise the draft PAMP prior to public review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/03/2013</td>
<td>Public comment invited via newspaper advertisements and e-mail - distribution of draft PAMP to libraries, selected I&amp;AP’s and display on website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/03/2103</td>
<td>Consideration of public comment after closing date of 25/03/2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/03/2013</td>
<td>Meeting with eThekwini Environmental Management staff member, Cameron McNeil, in Howick, to discuss both Beachwood Mangroves and Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/04/2013</td>
<td>Submission of draft PAMP to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife committees for approval.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2  KEY FINDINGS OF THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

This section provides a summary of key issues raised by stakeholders during the public stakeholder consultation process. It includes key issues that were raised in meetings, discussions and the Public Stakeholder Workshop, plus written and verbal submissions made during the review of the draft Protected Area Management Plan.

The key issues highlighted during the process include:

1. Deposition of litter and sediment from the Mgeni River in the south, and heavy urban runoff from Broadway in the north, at Rocket Hut. There is a silt trap at Rocket Hut that is meant to arrest the sediment input, but this has not been maintained by the eThekwini Municipality.
2. Pollution from industrial areas and sewer spillages from sewage pump station failure.
3. Alien vegetation encroachment, including aquatic and terrestrial alien plants.
4. General public safety (high crime rate) due to proximity to city and busy beach area. Crime originates with homeless people, some fishermen and general criminal element.
5. Reduction in salt water intrusion up the Beachwood Creek, in the vicinity of Rocket Hut, has led to a perceived decrease in whelks and mudskippers and definite proliferation of *Hibiscus tiliaceus*.
6. Alien fish (guppies and swordtails) were introduced outside the nature reserve, in the catchment, for mosquito control and escaped into the creek.
7. Proposed canalisation of sections of the Mgeni River, and possible effects thereof;
8. Unusual weather in September 2009, with dry salt-laden air, has stressed mangroves. Also, possible excess barrier overwash events have deposited marine-derived sediment into the mangroves, which is aiding in the encroachment of dune vegetation.
## 3 Comments Received During Review of the Draft Protected Area Management Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment received</th>
<th>Action carried out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roddy Ward</td>
<td>Asked that we note that there is a north-eastern relic surrounded by the southern section of Beachwood Golf Course that is fenced off.</td>
<td>Noted comment and will ensure that reserve management are aware of this relic for future management purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Jones</td>
<td>On behalf of Umgeni Estuary Conservancy, highlighted concerns about the impact of proposed canalisation of the lower Umgeni on the mangroves.</td>
<td>Noted. Ezemvelo will participate as part of the EIA process for this proposed development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Botha</td>
<td>Sent references for Beachwood Mangroves and description of geology.</td>
<td>Included in PAMP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoebe Carnegie</td>
<td>Expressed disappointment at low turnout to Beachwood &amp; Umhlanga meetings. Gave a list of people that could give information on the reserve.</td>
<td>Noted and sent to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Planning Unit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Cameron McLean              | Commented on behalf of eThekwini:  
1. Seems to be little control over fishing at Blue Lagoon.  
2. They have done extensive vegetation mapping in Durban and will make GIS data available to Ezemvelo.                                              | 1. Noted and passed information onto Ezemvelo law enforcement.  
2. Ezemvelo will follow up with respect to obtaining data.                                                     |
<p>| Diana Dold                  | Commented that it is a very comprehensive management plan that she cannot improve upon.                                                                                                                          | Noted.                                                                                                        |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Comment received</th>
<th>Action carried out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Burger</td>
<td>Sent comments from Umgeni Estuary Conservancy, in response to draft PAMP, and asked to be included as an I&amp;AP. Asked to note that the Umgeni Conservancy (focused on north bank of river): 1. Invests funds raised into cleaning estuary of solid pollution. 2. Also does alien plant control. 3. Found evidence of KZN Dwarf Chameleon in riparian zone when doing alien clearing. 4. Noted that there has been a dramatic decline in bird activity on the estuary (is it because of increase in mangroves?). 5. Noted mention of the EIA process for the widening of the Umgeni, but also mentioned that there is another EIA in progress for a business park, slightly upstream on the south bank.</td>
<td>Noted and copied to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Planning Unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Noted, with thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Noted, with thanks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Forwarded to ecological staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Forwarded to ecological staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Noted. Ezemvelo will participate as part of the EIA process for this proposed development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4 REFERENCES

APPENDIX A – LIST OF PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS

The following list includes only stakeholders who have participated, in some way, in the preparation of the Protected Area Management Plan for Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve. Appendix E contains the master list of everybody who was invited to participate by means of e-mail. This list includes some people from Appendix E, but also includes others who responded to newspaper advertisements, or came to hear about the process by other means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ORGANISATION / POSITION</th>
<th>EMAIL ADDRESS</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
<th>CELL PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Jones</td>
<td>WESSA/Umgeni Estuary Conservancy/Honorary Officier Ezemvelo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amanda.jones@mweb.co.za">amanda.jones@mweb.co.za</a></td>
<td>082 7455741</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basil Pather</td>
<td>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (OIC Beachwood)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:patherb@kznwildlife.com">patherb@kznwildlife.com</a></td>
<td>082 5592839</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bongani Ngcamu</td>
<td>Honorary Officer Ezemvelo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bonganingcamu@gmail.com">bonganingcamu@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>079 1147928</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Wright</td>
<td>Umhlanga Urban Improvement Project</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brian@urbanmgt.co.za">brian@urbanmgt.co.za</a></td>
<td>083 3243367</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucky &amp; Jennifer Symons</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:symons4@mweb.co.za">symons4@mweb.co.za</a></td>
<td>031 3123884</td>
<td>083 6312844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron McLean</td>
<td>eThekwini Municipality - Conservation Planner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cameron.mclean@durban.gov.za">cameron.mclean@durban.gov.za</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Mulqueeny</td>
<td>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife</td>
<td><a href="mailto:craigm@kznwildlife.com">craigm@kznwildlife.com</a></td>
<td>031 2741164</td>
<td>071 8875277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Dold</td>
<td>CoastWatch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dianadold@telkomsa.net">dianadold@telkomsa.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederike Liasides</td>
<td>Charles Pillai Liasides &amp; Associates</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liasides@telkomsa.net">liasides@telkomsa.net</a></td>
<td>031 2071439</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Nair</td>
<td>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nairj@kznwildlife.com">nairj@kznwildlife.com</a></td>
<td>082 5592833</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Botha</td>
<td>Council for Geoscience</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gbotha@geoscience.org.za">gbotha@geoscience.org.za</a></td>
<td>033 3456265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Cairns</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:gogoheather@telkomsa.net">gogoheather@telkomsa.net</a></td>
<td>031 5620257</td>
<td>072 2642200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irene Hatton</td>
<td>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Planning)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ihatton@kznwildlife.com">ihatton@kznwildlife.com</a></td>
<td>033 8451452</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Bayley</td>
<td>Hawaan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janholistic@hotmail.com">janholistic@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>076 2982557</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jocelyn Sutherland</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jocelyn26s@gmail.com">Jocelyn26s@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muller</td>
<td>Honorary Officer Ezemvelo</td>
<td></td>
<td>031 5633333</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>ORGANISATION / POSITION</td>
<td>EMAIL ADDRESS</td>
<td>TELEPHONE</td>
<td>CELL PHONE</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Swemmer</td>
<td>Honorary Officer Ezemvelo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:keithswemmer@afrihost.co.za">keithswemmer@afrihost.co.za</a></td>
<td>072 5520939</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Morty</td>
<td>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mortyk@kznwildlife.com">mortyk@kznwildlife.com</a></td>
<td>031 2741150</td>
<td>082 5592840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Burger</td>
<td>Umgeni Estuary Conservancy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Margaret@burgerip.co.za">Margaret@burgerip.co.za</a></td>
<td>031 5731054</td>
<td>083 6305380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoebe &amp; Alastair Carnegie</td>
<td>WESSA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alph.car@mweb.co.za">alph.car@mweb.co.za</a></td>
<td>031 5664018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Boon</td>
<td>eThekwini Municipality</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kzntrees@gmail.com">kzntrees@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>031 3117877</td>
<td>083 5628564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roddy Ward</td>
<td>Botanist / Environmental Consultant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ward@eastcoast.co.za">ward@eastcoast.co.za</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosalind MacDonald</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rosalind@futurehistory.co.za">Rosalind@futurehistory.co.za</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santosh Bachoo</td>
<td>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bachoos@kznwildlife.com">bachoos@kznwildlife.com</a></td>
<td>031 2741150</td>
<td>083 7839612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wade Holland</td>
<td>CoastWatch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sealodge@iafrica.com">sealodge@iafrica.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B – ADVERTISEMENTS

Scans of the newspaper advertisements for the Public Stakeholder Workshop for Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve, and public review of the draft Protect Area Management Plan, follow.

PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP:
PLACING A CLASSIFIED AD HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

Go to: wegotads.co.za

CENTRAL REGION
APPLICATION IS HEREBY MADE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 4, SECTION 39 OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2008 (ACT NO. 6 OF 2008) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FREE STANDING CELLULAR COMMUNICATION BASE STATION WITH A 45 M MONOPOLE MAST ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM 45/19 (∵ 006049/2006 30C) KNYSNA AREA, OFF MEZINGA DRIVE AND AT CO-ORDINATES 29° 40’ 45.83” S AND 30° 54’ 35.47” N
APPLICANT: JOHN ROYAL ARCHITECTS
246 CHELSEA ROAD, DURBAN, 4001
ON BEHALF OF VODACOM LTD
REGISTERED PROPERTY OWNER: NGONYAMA TRUST (BOARDS)
A copy of the application and its accompanying documents will be open for inspection by interested members of the public between the hours of 0800 and 1200 Mondays to Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) at the offices of the Regional Director of Land Use Management Branch, Ground Floor, 186 KZNSA (KwaZulu Natal) Centre, Durban, and by post to P O Box 860, Durban, 4000, or by fax to 031 311 7868, or by email to landuse@kznw.durban.gov.za by 11 February 2013. Should you fail to lodge or for forwarding comments by the said date, you will be disqualified from further participation in the process. Central Regional Office Telephone No. 031 311 7166 / 7607.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
BEECHWOOD MANGROVES & UMHLANGA LAGOON NATURE RESERVE
MENPENJATI NATURE RESERVE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS
Eszenveo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (Eszenveo) is the designated Management Authority for the abovementioned three nature reserves and is responsible for the completion of Protected Area Management Plans for these reserves, in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003. The Protected Area Management Plans are planning documents providing an overarching management framework and zoning plan, which will be compiled for these nature reserves, with the assistance of stakeholders, through a public consultation process. Brousse-James & Associates have been contracted to conduct this process, on behalf of Eszenveo.
To facilitate public input in developing these plans, you are invited to attend the Stakeholder Workshops:
BEECHWOOD MANGROVES & UMHLANGA LAGOON WORKSHOPS
Venue: for both Workshops: KZN Sharks Board
Date: 29 January 2013 at 10:00 (Beechwood Management Plan)
Date: 29 January 2013 at 13:00 (Umhlanga Management Plan)
MENPENJATI MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP
Venue: Administrative Office, Menpjenati Nature Reserve
Date: 30 January 2013 at 10:00
A Background Information Document is available from Brousse-James & Associates and is also available on the Eszenveo website www.kznw.durban.gov.za. Pathway: “Conservation” > “Public comment” > “Coast region” with the protected area name and the word “BID” in the file name.
Should you be unable to attend the Workshops, the document will remain available and comments will be welcomed until 15 February 2013. For planning purposes, if you are attending any of the Workshops, please register by 25 January 2013.
Contact: Barry James 033 333 0844 / 032 896 089
Fax: 032 130 244
Email: brousse@al.co.za
Following the above stakeholder meetings and input received, draft Protected Area Management Plans will be developed and advertised for further public review and comment.
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

BEACHWOOD MANGROVES NATURE RESERVE
UMHlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve
IMPENJATI NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

The iLimiTc Project urges all stakeholders to participate in the development of the Management Plans for the three nature reserves and to contribute towards the conservation of the areas.

The Management Plans are being developed in accordance with the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, No. 94 of 2004. The iLimiTc Project Management Team have been consulting with key stakeholders and the public in order to develop a management framework that will ensure that the reserves are managed in a sustainable manner.

The following workshops have been arranged for the development of the Management Plans:

- Beachwood Mangroves Workshop
  - Venue: Beachwood High School
  - Date: 29 January 2013 at 10:00
- Umhlanga Lagoon Workshop
  - Venue: Umhlanga High School
  - Date: 29 January 2013 at 10:00
- Impenjati Nature Reserve Workshop
  - Venue: Impenjati High School
  - Date: 29 January 2013 at 10:00

The workshops are part of the broader process of stakeholder involvement in the development of the Management Plans. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and contribute to the development of the Plans.

For more information, please contact:

iLimiTc Project
Phone: 031 868 6969
Fax: 031 868 0999
Email: info@limitec.co.za

Notes:
- The plans will be submitted for public comment in the form of a draft Management Plan.
- A public hearing will be held to discuss the draft Management Plan.
- Comments will be accepted until 15 January 2013.
- The final Management Plan will be submitted for approval.

Contact: InfoLimitec 031 868 6969 Fax: 031 868 0999
STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOPS

BEACHWOOD MANGROVES NATURE RESERVE
UMHLANDA LAGOON NATURE RESERVE
MUNJATI NATURE RESERVE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (Ezemvelo) is the designated Management Authority for the aforementioned three nature reserves and is responsible for the compilation of Protected Area Management Plans for these reserves, in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003. The Protected Area Management Plans are planning documents providing an overarching management framework and management plan which will be compiled for these nature reserves, with the assistance of stakeholders, through a public consultation process. Environmental Impact Assessments have been contracted to conduct this process, on behalf of Ezemvelo.

To facilitate public input in compiling these plans, you are invited to attend the Stakeholder Workshops:

Beachwood Mangroves & Umhlanga Lagoon Workshops
Venue: Umgubu Workshops, Umgubu, Umhlanga
Date: 28 January 2013 at 10:00 (Beachwood Management Plan)
Date: 29 January 2013 at 10:00 (Umhlanga Management Plan)

Munjati Management Plan Workshop
Venue: Administrative Office, Munjati Nature Reserve
Date: 30 January 2013 at 10:00

A Background Information Document is available from Brouse-James & Associates and is also available on the Ezemvelo website: www.epark.co.za (Pathway: Conservation > Public Consultation > Coasts Region > with the protected area name and the word EIA in the filename).

Should you be unable to attend the Workshops, the document will remain available and comments will be welcomed until 15 February 2013. For claiming purposes, if you are attending any of the Workshops, please register by 25 January 2013.

Contact: Barry James 031-3364569/8/9/54089 Fax: 086/2735249
Email: brouse@akk.co.za

Following the above stakeholder meetings and input received, draft Protected Area Management Plans will be developed and advertised for further public review and comment.
Certificate of Publication
from
SOUTH COAST HERALD
(Proprietor: Fenrose Holdings Ltd)
FO Box 1263, Port Sheppstone, 4240

We certify that the advertisements
which is attached below, appeared in the legal columns of the South Coast Herald on

[Date]

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
BEACHWOOD MANGROVES NATURE RESERVE
UMHILANGA LAGOON NATURE RESERVE
MPEJATI NATURE RESERVE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal (Ezemvelo) is the designated Management Authority for the above-mentioned three nature reserves and is responsible for the compilation of Protected Area Management Plans for these reserves, in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No 57 of 2003. The Protected Area Management Plans are planning documents providing an overarching management framework and conservation plan, which will be compiled for these nature reserves, with the assistance of stakeholders, through a public consultation process. Broussard & Associates have been contracted to conduct this process, on behalf of Ezemvelo.

To facilitate public input in developing these plans, you are invited to attend the Stakeholder Workshops:

Beachwood Mangroves & Umhlanga Lagoon Workshops
Venue for both Workshops: KZN Sharks Board
Date: 29 January 2013 at 9:00 (Beachwood Management Plan)
Date: 29 January 2013 at 17:00 (Umhlanga Management Plan)

Mpejati Management Plan Workshop
Venue: Administrative Office, Mpejati Nature Reserve
Date: 30 January 2013 at 9:00

A Background Information Document is available from Broussard & Associates and is also available on the Ezemvelo website www.kznwildlife.com (Pathway: "Conservation" -> "Public consultation" -> "Coast region" with the protected area name and the word "BID in the file name.

Should you be unable to attend the Workshops, the document will remain available and comments will be welcomed until 15 February 2013. For planning purposes, if you are attending any of the Workshops, please register by 25 January 2013.

Contact: Barry James 033-3104964/0828954089 Fax: 0822125248
Email: broussard@sa.net.co.za

Following the above stakeholder meetings and input received, draft Protected Areas Management Plans will be developed and advertised for further public review and comment.
CALL FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE BEACHWOOD MANGROVES UMHLANGA LAGOON MPENJATI PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

This is to inform the public that the National Department of Environment and Tourism Regional Office for KwaZulu-Natal has drafted conservation management plans for the areas of interest indicated above. The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for each protected area is the main legal document that governs the use of the area. The CMSPL and the proposed CMPs have been designed to protect and conserve biodiversity at the highest possible levels of diversity. The public is therefore invited to familiarise themselves with the plans and to make submissions and comments on the proposed plans.

- The public is advised to submit comments to the Regional Office by 30th November 2012.
- Those wishing to make oral submissions can attend the public hearings to be held on 24th October 2012 at the Beachwood Community Hall.

For more information, contact Bongi Lwanga on 031 378 2427 or by email at bongi.lwanga@dep.env.gov.za.

Deadline for comments is 26th March 2013. Written comments must be submitted to Bongi Lwanga at the Regional Office.
CALL FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF
THE
BEACHWOOD MANGROVES
UMHLANGA LAGOON
MPENJATI
PROTECTED AREA
MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Ezemvelo) is the appointed Management Authority for the aforementioned three nature reserves and is responsible for the compilation of the Protected Area Management Plans in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003. Each management plan provides an overarching management framework for the protected area. The vision, mission, management objectives, strategic outcomes and management activities for each have been developed through a public participation process. The draft management plans are the result of careful consideration of public stakeholder input and management requirements, and have been prepared for submission to the provincial MEC. The plans are available for public review and comment in order to facilitate further public input at the following locations:

- Printed copies for viewing will be available at the Umhlanga Local, Durban North, Port Shepstone, Margate libraries and the eThekwini and Hibiscus Coast Municipalities’ Planning offices.
- Printed copies for viewing will be available at the Umhlanga Local, Durban North, Port Shepstone, Margate libraries and the eThekwini and Hibiscus Coast Municipalities’ Planning offices.

Closing date for comments: 25 March 2013
Written comments must be submitted to Barry James: brouss@bai.co.za • Fax: 031 212 5248 • PO Box 1934, Illovo, 3300

PAGE 16 THE WITNESS, FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013
CALL FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE BEACHWOOD MANGROVES UMHLANGA LAGOON MPENJATI PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Ezemvelo) is the appointed Management Authority for the above mentioned three nature reserves and is responsible for the compilation of Protected Area Management Plans in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003. Each management plan provides an overarching management framework for the protected area. The vision, management objectives, strategic outcomes and management activities for each have been developed through a public participation process. The draft management plan is the result of careful consideration of public stakeholder input and management requirements and has been prepared for submission to the provincial MEC. The plan is available for public review and comment in order to facilitate further public input at the following locations:

1. The Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife website at (Pathway: "Conservation" > "Public comment" > "Coast region" with the protected area name and the word PAMP

2. Printed copies for viewing will be available at the Umhlanga, La Lucia, Durban North, Port Shepstone and Margate libraries and the eThekwini and Hibiscus Coast Municipalities’ Planning offices.

Closing date for comments: 25 March 2013

Written comments must be submitted to:
Barry James; brousse@sal.co.za
Fax: 0862125248. PO Box 1304, Howick, 3290.
CALL FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE
BEACHWOOD MANGROVES
UMHLANGA LAGOON
MPENJATO
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Ezemvelo) is the appointed Management Authority for above-mentioned three nature reserves and is responsible for the compilation of Protected Area Management Plans in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003. Each management plan provides an overarching management framework for the protected area. The vision, management objectives, strategic outcomes and management activities for each have been developed through a public participation process. The draft management plan is the result of careful consideration of public stakeholder input and management and has been prepared for submission to the provincial MEC. The plan is available for public review and comment in order to facilitate further public input at the following locations:

- The Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife website at (Pathway: “Conservation” > “Public comment” in “Coast region” with the protected area name and the word PAMP in the file name).
- Printed copies for viewing will be available at the Umhlanga, La Lucia, Durban North, Port Shepstone and Margate libraries and the eThekwini and Hibiscus Coast Municipalities Planning offices.

Closing date for comments: 25 March 2013

Written comments must be submitted to:
Barry James: brouse@e-mail.co.za
Fax: 08621243248, PO Box 1304, Howick, 3290.

For SOUTH COAST HERALD

Advertising Manager
APPENDIX C – BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The newspaper advertisement stated that the Background Information Document would be available from Brousse-James & Associates, and would also be available on the Ezemvelo website, www.kznwildlife.com (Pathway: “Conservation” > “Public comment” > “Coast region” with the protected area name and the word BID in the file name).

The Background Information Document, circulated prior to the Public Stakeholder Workshop, is reproduced in its entirety on the following pages.
1. Background

Brousse-James & Associates has been contracted by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to produce a Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) for the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve. The compilation of PAMP’s for Protected Areas is a statutory requirement, laid out in the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003). The role of the PAMP is to inform the strategic direction of the Protected Area and will not detail the operational imperatives.

The process that will be followed for compiling the PAMP’s will follow the guidelines prescribed in the Act, which requires full consultation with Interested and Affected Parties, and that the Management Plan must take into account any applicable aspects of the Integrated Development Plan of the Municipality in which the Protected Area is situated.

2. Description of the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve

The Beachwood Mangrove Nature Reserve is situated some 5 km north of the centre of Durban Ethekweni Metropolitan Municipality (ETH). It mangrove swamp is a National Monument, covering an area of 76 ha, and was proclaimed in 1977 and 1980. The declared area is bounded by the M4 Highway, Mgeni River, Indian Ocean and the Beachwood Golf Course. It consists of about 12.14 ha of mangrove swamp forest, an important estuarine habitat at the mouth of the Mgeni River in Durban and is the largest population of mangrove trees in the Durban area.

Two species of mangrove, namely the Black Mangrove (*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*) and the White Mangrove (*Avicennia marina*), occur naturally there. A third species, *Rhizophora mucronata* (Red Mangrove), was introduced to the nature reserve from Durban Bay. Two other species were introduced from Kosi Bay, namely *Ceriops tagal* (Indian Mangrove) and *Lumnitzera racemosa* (Tonga Mangrove). The mangroves are separated from the sea by sand dunes, some of which reach a height of 10 m above sea level and where creeping plants and pioneer scrub are to be found.

A tidal creek runs through the mangroves, parallel to the sea, from the Beachwood Golf Course in the north, to the estuary in the south. The creek is about 1 m wide in the north, extending to about 30 m in the south, where it opens into the Mgeni Estuary via a channel.

No accommodation, caravanning or camping facilities are available. However, with prior arrangements, supervised education groups are permitted access. The area is used as a Nature Conservation Education Centre and the southern area, near the Mgeni Estuary, has an education centre, braai facilities, ablution facility and kitchen at the entrance to the nature reserve.
A raised 250 m long boardwalk leads from the open-air lecture space and winds along the creek and through the slightly less dense sections of the swamp, allowing visitors to view the swamps at both low and high tides. Along the way, the boardwalk splits, with one fork crossing the creek to allow visitors access to the beach. The other fork meanders through the mangrove trees and reaches the salt marsh.

No harvesting of bait organisms is allowed and no fishing takes place in the Beachwood Creek as it is very narrow and shallow. Recreational fishing takes place in the Mgeni Estuary.

3. **Purpose**

The primary purpose of the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve is to conserve one of the last remaining Mangrove Forests and associated ecosystems in the Durban area. Due to its location, its secondary purpose is environmental education and it was declared a National Monument for this reason.

4. **Significance**

A review of the status of marine and estuarine protected areas in 1998 stressed that the estuaries of KwaZulu-Natal are important as “life support systems”, acting as fish and crustacean nurseries, and as exporters of detritus into the marine ecosystem. Their contribution to the marine commercial fishing sector must be stressed. This is totally inadequate in terms of the importance of estuaries as “life support systems” and makes the conservation of each estuary even more important.

Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve has the largest population of mangrove trees in the Durban area and, associated with the mangroves, are a number of animal species of conservation importance. Mangroves, in particular, have a number of economic values, i.e., provide a number of ecosystem services, namely; protect land from storm erosion, trap sediments, nursery for fish and prawns, some adult fish live and feed in forests at high tide, ecotourism and educational value, and acting as a carbon sink.

Being so close to the centre of Durban, Beachwood is one of the most accessible birding locations in the greater Ethekwini area and also has immeasurable value as an educational resource and is used by universities and schools for that purpose. From a historical perspective, it provides a glimpse into the past when much of Durban was a significant and diverse wetland ecosystem, and Beachwood is one of the last remnants of that system.

5. **History of Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve**

Prior to the 1850’s, the Mgeni River was connected to Durban Bay by a series of swamps and lakes and did not enter the sea at its present location. The Beachwood area was a part of a series of swamps extending as far north as La Lucia (10 km northwards along the coast). Since then, most of the area has been significantly transformed and a golf course, airport and housing cover most of the area, leaving only about 2.5 km along the beach in an undeveloped state. It is this remnant undeveloped area that forms the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve.
Over the years, Beachwood was used as a military base and had a shooting range and there have been a number of incidences that have threatened the integrity of the mangroves. These will be detailed in the PAMP.

In May 1977, the area was proclaimed a Nature Reserve, by virtue of its educational value and proximity to the main centres of education in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal). This was an effort to protect the area from the pressures which threatened it (such as reclamation, “Disneyland” developments, sand removal, etc.). At that time it was under the joint control of the Natal Parks Board and the Department of Defence. The area is now under the exclusive control of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (the successor to the Natal Parks Board). In July 1980 the Beachwood Mangroves was declared a National Monument.

In 1985, the then Natal Parks Board obtained an additional triangle of land, adjacent to the southern tip of the nature reserve from the city municipality. This land serves not only to conserve more mangroves and associated vegetation, but also to secure access to the area and is now also provides a parking facility for visitors.

6. Key Management Issues

Challenges associated with the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve include:

- Heavy urban runoff and deposition of litter and sediment from the Mgeni River;
- Pollution from industrial areas in the lower areas of the Mgeni catchment;
- It is believed that reduction in salt water intrusion has led to a decrease in the number of whelks and mudskippers;
- Alien fish (guppies and swordtails) were introduced into the upper reaches of the Beachwood Creek for mosquito control;
- Alien vegetation encroachment; and
- General public safety (high crime rate).

It must be noted that the Beachwood mangrove swamps is a highly dynamic system, changing by the year, and that these changes are caused by both weather/natural phenomena (rainfall in catchment, tides and storms) and the interventions of man. This makes management planning all the more challenging.

Over the years, there have been a number of management interventions in Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve and there have been various recommendations for interventions in the nature reserve in response to various issues. However, there is not a readily accessible record of why interventions took place, what exactly the interventions were and what the results of those interventions were. Neither is there a readily accessible record, particularly in a spatial format, of changes in the system over time.

As part of the process of adaptive management, which is an essential strategy towards the management of protected areas, particularly one as dynamic as Beachwood Mangroves, documenting these interventions is essential.
7. Stakeholder Consultation Process

A principle of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife’s in preparing Protected Area Management Plans (PAMP’s) is collaboration and transparency. Efforts will be made to canvas stakeholders and obtain their inputs in the development of the PAMP. A stakeholder workshop has been advertised and will be held on the 29 January 2013, at 10h00, at the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board auditorium, to discuss the vision and any management issues that need to be addressed in the PAMP. Once the draft PAMP has been prepared, it will be made available for public review and comment prior to its finalisation and submission to the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Board and MEC.

If you, or your organisation, are aware of any other stakeholders that need to be included in the process, or should you have identified any additional issues, or would like to participate in this process / require any further information, please register with:

Barry James on Email: brousse@ai.co.za; Ph: 033-3304984/ 0828954089; Fax: 086-2126248
APPENDIX D – COPY OF STANDARD INVITATION

A copy of the standard invitation sent to known stakeholders for the Public Stakeholder Workshop follows:

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

BEACHWOOD MANGROVES NATURE RESERVE
UMHLANGA LAGOON NATURE RESERVE
MPENJATI NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (Ezemvelo) is the designated Management Authority for the abovementioned three nature reserves and is responsible for the compilation of Protected Area Management Plans for these reserves, in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No.57 of 2003. The Protected Area Management Plans are planning documents providing an overarching management framework and zonation plan, which will be compiled for these nature reserves, with the assistance of stakeholders, through a public consultation process. Brousse-James & Associates have been contracted to conduct this process, on behalf of Ezemvelo.

To facilitate public input in developing these plans, you are invited to attend the Stakeholder Workshops:

**Beachwood Mangroves & Umhlanga Lagoon Workshops**
Venue for both Workshops: KZN Sharks Board
Date: 29 January 2013 at 10:00 (Beachwood Management Plan)
Date: 29 January 2013 at 13:00 (Umhlanga Management Plan)

**Mpenjati Management Plan Workshop**
Venue: Administrative Office, Mpenjati Nature Reserve
Date: 30 January 2013 at 10:00

A Background Information Document is available from Brousse-James & Associates and is also available on the Ezemvelo website [www.kznwildlife.com](http://www.kznwildlife.com) (Pathway: “Conservation” > “Public comment” > “Coast region” with the protected area name and the word BID in the file name).

Should you be unable to attend the Workshops, the document will remain available and comments will be welcomed until 15 February 2013. For planning purposes, if you are attending any of the Workshops, please register by 25 January 2013.

Contact: Barry James 033-3304984/0828954089 Fax: 0862125248
Email: brousse@saic.co.za

Following the above stakeholder meetings and input received, draft Protected Area Management Plans will be developed and advertised for further public review and comment.
APPENDIX E – SPECIFIC STAKEHOLDERS

The following is a list of stakeholders who were specifically sent Background Information Documents and invitations to the Public Stakeholder Workshop, as part of the public consultation process.

The list was used as a master list for three Protected Area Management Plans, namely, Beachwood Mangroves, Umhlanga Lagoon and Mpenjati Nature Reserves, to send initial notices by e-mail of the Protected Area Management Planning process and invite I&AP’s to the initial Public Stakeholder Workshops. The Background Information Documents, and a copy of the text used for the newspaper advertisements, were attached. Very few responses were received, but all that were received are included in a separate pdf (Beachwood, Umhlanga PAMP Correspondence Copies.pdf). People who responded to adverts, came to meetings or participated in any other way are listed in Appendix A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ORGANISATION / POSITION</th>
<th>EMAIL ADDRESS</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
<th>CELL PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abie Wentzel</td>
<td>KZN Tourism Authority</td>
<td><a href="mailto:abie@zulu.org.za">abie@zulu.org.za</a></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anton Botha</td>
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<td>039 3159203</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayanda Matoti</td>
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<td>021 8192476</td>
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<td>Bianca McKelvey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Davis</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Schwegman</td>
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<td>083 9814814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Mulqueeney</td>
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<td>031 2741164</td>
<td>071 8875277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Watson (Local Ward Councillor)</td>
<td>Impenjati Farm</td>
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<td>039 3112653</td>
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<td>David Holt-Biddle</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Khethiwe Dlamini</td>
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<td>039 6822040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paddy Norman</td>
<td>WESSA/CoastWatch</td>
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<td>039 6952827</td>
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<tr>
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APPENDIX F - MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

The Public Stakeholder Workshop was held on 29 January 2013, at 10h00, at the KZN Sharks Board meeting room. The workshop was chaired by Mr Barry James and minutes taken by Mrs Celia Speirs. The PowerPoint presentation given during the Workshop follows these minutes.

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MINUTES

Mr James opened the meeting by explaining the purpose of Protected Area Management Plans (PAMP’s), including the fact that PAMP’s are a statutory requirement of the NEMA Protected Areas Act and that the process of developing the plans is clearly prescribed in the Act. It was emphasised that public participation is an essential component of the process. He also outlined the PAMP development process. He then gave a presentation outlining the key biophysical features of the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve, as well as the nature, significance and key management issues of the nature reserve.

During his presentation, the following issues were raised:

It was pointed out from the floor that the Black-headed Dwarf Chameleon is now called the KZN Dwarf Chameleon. This was noted.

A comment was made that, although it was mentioned in the presentation that Beachwood has probably the last population of Mudskippers, they are thought to occur at Umhlanga Lagoon as well. This needs to be verified and it also needs to be checked whether the populations are increasing or declining.

Mrs Phoebe Carnegie described the exceptional regeneration, over the last ten years, of the white mangroves on the mud flats, which had been washed away by Cyclone Domoina. It was noted that they are a pioneer species, and the black mangroves then grow in their shade, and the process of succession results in the replacement of white mangroves by black mangroves.

Mr Wade Holland, of CoastWatch, asked whether, in the light of Fiona MacKay’s research, there was a co-ordinated approach between terrestrial and marine conservation. He felt it
was necessary to have an expansive view, and look at the whole coast line, including the marine, estuarine and terrestrial components and their interactions. He felt that direction needed to come from Ezemvelo.

Miss Irene Hatton of the Ezemvelo Planning Division replied that their current emphasis was on the main estuary, as a proper management plan for the Mngeni Estuary was vital for the success of Beachwood. She emphasised that management of the area outside the nature reserve was the responsibility of eThekwini Municipality. Mr James emphasised the importance of the Dusi uMngeni Conservation Trust (of which he was a founder member) in trying to reverse many years of mismanagement and abuse upstream. Mr Holland noted that there are capacity problems within eThekwini with regard to management.

Mr Basil Pather, the Officer in Charge of Beachwood Mangrove Nature Reserve, stressed that the focus of the current meeting was on drawing up a management plan for that particular nature reserve, which was a small component of the main estuary.

**Under the sub-heading Strengths and Opportunities:**

Mr James then led a discussion revolving around strengths and opportunities for the nature reserve. He emphasised the importance of Beachwood as an educational resource, particularly because of the close proximity to schools in Durban. Its historical value as a glimpse into the past is also valuable.

Miss Hatton suggested that conservation efforts could be expanded, should the Virginia Airport close in the future. However, it was pointed out that the area was separated from the mangroves by the golf course. In response to this, Mr James suggested that the golf course could be managed as a corridor between the areas. There were possibly opportunities for better management on the edge of the golf course. Mrs Carnegie said that Mr Dave Henry was concerned about the golf course, and would like to open up areas to increase the flow of water through the mangroves.

Mr Ken Morty, of Ezemvelo, felt that it was more important to manage their own reserves properly, rather than being distracted by other problems outside the reserves. This issue was reiterated at various times during the meeting – that the focus of the Management Plan was management of the nature reserve and that Ezemvelo needed to focus on their core mandate with the limited funding and resources that they have at their disposal. This fact does not preclude them from working in partnership with other organisations to address issues outside of the nature reserve.

**Key Management Issues:**

A number of key management issues were highlighted during the presentation and comments and discussion were invited from the floor. The issues that were discussed were:

In periods of heavy rainfall, vast amounts of sediment were washed into the mangroves, particularly in the creek. Runoff from the M4 was a problem. Previously the Municipality bulldozed the sediment away, but dumped it on the reeds. It was noted during the discussion that sediment from the N4 was the main issue and not from the Mngeni River. It was also noted that this was new sediment coming into the system all the time and that when it was bulldozed, it was not being removed from the system.
Mr James noted that in one of the papers that he had read, it was noted that populations of mudskippers and whelks were decreasing. He asked those present if they knew what the current situation was. Mr Keith Swemmer, an Honorary Officer, said that at the last count, which was in the last two weeks, they had seen more mudskippers than ever before, and that whelks, too, were increasing.

With regard to the presence of guppies and swordtails, Mr James said that he had read conflicting accounts with regard to whether they had been released from people’s fish tanks or whether they were introduced deliberately to control mosquitoes. Mr John Muller, another Honorary Officer, explained that the guppies and swordtails had been introduced originally into the Japanese Gardens, and had washed downstream into the estuary. Mr James asked if there was any evidence that they were causing any problems, and the general consensus was that they were not perceived to be a big issue. Mr Morty noted that populations are restricted by salt water. Mr Morty said that the channel was frequently dug out, but kept blocking up, and the salt water did not go high enough. If this were to occur, guppies and swordtails would be further restricted.

It was noted that crime is a constant and increasing problem, not only at Beachwood, but all along the coast.

Mr Swemmer mentioned the problem of pollution from soapy water coming into the top of the creek from “Rocket Hut”, and homeless people washing their clothes in the river. The water was often grey. This would have a negative impact on the Southern Mouthbrooders, in particular. It was noted that this would be more of an issue in the winter when there was no rain to flush the system out.

**Vision and Objectives:**

Mr James outlined the importance of a succinct, long-term inspirational vision statement and emphasised that objectives should not be in conflict with the vision. He invited comments on the key points outlined in the slide that was presented.

Miss Hatton commented that we may need to specifically mention education as a component of environmental awareness and nature-based recreation.

Mrs Carnegie praised the Beachwood Mangroves for being one of the best managed and maintained nature reserves in the area. She felt that guided public tours should be encouraged, to increase public awareness. Mr George Nair, of Ezemvelo, replied that a process was in place with eThekwini to bring as many groups as possible. Honorary Officers did walks with school groups, and tour groups came through. Booking was essential, and could be done through the Green Hub, which co-ordinated visits. He noted that the third Saturday of each month was an Open Day, on which anyone could walk through the nature reserve.

**Problems which needed to be addressed:**

Mr Pather, of Ezemvelo, mentioned three problems; namely the lack of security; the cycle track which had increased accessibility, but also resulted in cyclists riding on the boardwalk; and the siltation which the Municipality was slow in removing.
Mrs Carnegie asked whether it had been wise to introduce different species of mangroves from other areas. Mr James said that the red mangroves had been introduced in 1971, and that historically that sort of thing had been done without due regard for the consequences. Mr Swemmer said that they had not spread dramatically and, in fact, very few were visible. It was noted that, in spite of the fact that two other mangrove species (Ceriops tagal [Indian Mangrove] and Lumnitzera racemosa [Tonga Mangrove]) were introduced from Kosi Bay, nobody in the meeting had seen those species in Beachwood Mangroves. Mr Morty noted that, even if the Red Mangroves were introduced from the harbour, this was essentially historically part of the same estuarine system and should not be seen as introduction of an extralimital species.

Objectives:

Since the meeting had not taken long, Mr James presented some of the objectives that they had set, which followed on from the proposed Vision statement and he invited comments on these.

Mrs Carnegie felt that it was important to control the whole river right to its source, as the flooding caused the damage to the mangroves. It was noted that issues outside the nature reserve were outside the mandate of the protected area manager. Nevertheless, Miss Hatton replied that Ezemvelo was aware of the fact that upstream impacts affected the estuary and the mangroves and that this issue was considered whenever an EIA was done for a proposed development upstream. So, Ezemvelo do use legal, and other tools, to counter threats. Mr James noted that DUCT actively monitors development applications for potential impacts on the Mgeni Catchment.

Mr Holland spoke of an EIA process that is presently being undertaken for a project aimed at widening the mouth of the Mgeni River near Springfield Park, which he felt would reduce siltation.

Mr Morty, of Ezemvelo, said that it would not solve the problem of the silt in the Beachwood Mangroves, since most of the silt came from the M4 and from Durban North. Nevertheless, Mr James pointed out that a decrease in silt coming into the estuary would slow down the increase in mangroves colonising the lower reaches of the estuary and transforming the habitat. In response to that, Mr Morty pointed out that different species had to be provided for. Therefore, it was necessary to remove some of the mangroves, to allow for waders, since the extent of mangroves was increasing at the expense of habitat for waders.

Mr James said that there was a big gap in the historical records, and appealed for any information or photographs relevant to the area. He noted that there were no available records of whether or not recommendations made by people such as Begg, some 30 years ago, had been implemented or not and this is essentially one of the difficulties attached to putting together the background information for the Management Plan.

Mr John Muller said that he had grown up in the area, and in his childhood there had been no mangrove trees in the creek. Sixty years ago, it had been open flats to the sea, but now the trees had completely closed the landscape, and the creek had become silted up. A bird hide had been built there previously, but had been washed away by Cyclone Domoina.
Mr Holland noted that virtually all of the recommendations made by Begg had not been implemented.

Mr Holland asked whether the “Visions and Objectives” were reserve specific. The answer was in the affirmative.

Miss Hatton added that there were no plans for large-scale infrastructure for the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve.

There being no further discussion, the meeting closed at 11.30

Minutes recorded by C. Speirs.

As all the people present intended staying for the following meeting, which was to focus on the Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve, it was decided to have a short lunch break, and begin the next meeting thereafter.
Scanned copy of the attendance register as proof of attendance at the Public Stakeholder Workshop.

### Beachwood Mangroves Management Plan Public Meeting 29 January 2013 – Attendance Register

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BEACHWOOD MANGROVES NATURE RESERVE

Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP)
Public Meeting
29 January 2013

THE RULES OF THE MEETING
- Introduce yourself and your interest in the Nature Reserve.
- Focus on the issue not the individual.
- Be courteous at all times.
- One speaker at a time.
- All questions and comments to be directed through the Chairperson.
- Give a fair chance to all. Keep it brief and to the point!
- Don’t use this meeting as an opportunity to vent long-felt frustrations with other unrelated issues.
- Switch your cell phone off!

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING
- The compilation of Protected Area Management Plans (PAMP) is a statutory requirement of the NEMA Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003).
- Role of PAMP to inform strategic direction – not to detail operational imperatives.
- Process follows guidelines prescribed in the Act.
- An important component of the process is full public consultation, as well as reference to Municipal Integrated Development Plans.

BEACHWOOD LOCALITY

KEY FEATURES OF BEACHWOOD MANGROVES
- An important estuarine nature reserve (70ha) in the middle of Durban.
- The greater part of the Nature Reserve is part of a Subtropical Coastal Lagoon, which includes a complex of predominantly Mangrove Forest (12.14ha), with some Subtropical Estuarine Salt Marshes.
- The seaward edge of the Nature Reserve consists of Subtropical Seashore Vegetation, grading into patches of East Coast Dune Forest.
- The landward edge and patches of a thin strip between the Seashore Vegetation and the lagoon is KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland.

THE PAMP PROCESS

- Situational analysis
- Preparation of draft management plan
- Finalisation and adoption of management plan

- Information gathering
- Identify key management issues
- Prepare the management plan
- Submit to the local authority
WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT BEACHWOOD MANGROVES?

Animal Species
- 12 gastropod species (snails), richest mangrove-related assemblage in one locality.
- More than 60 fish species, including Mudskipper (Hemipterus idomites) population, which is probably the last population south of the Rupel River.
- 30 crustacean species (crabs, prawns & shrimps), including Langouste Crab (Cardioma Carrinii).
- Black-headed Dwarf Chameleon (Bradypodion meleroccephalum); other reptiles not recorded in database.
- At least 7 frog species, including near endemic Bust Squasher (Astyranthus watsonii).
- 230 bird species.
- 6 mammal species (excluding rodents and bats).

WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT BEACHWOOD MANGROVES?

Economic and Ecosystem Services
- Estuaries are sensitive and have great ecological importance.
  - Protect coastal vegetation (mangroves & dune vegetation) from storm erosion.
  - Important nursery for fish and prawns.
- Some adult fish live and feed in mangroves at high tide.
- Act as a carbon sink.
- Ecotourism and educational value.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT BEACHWOOD?

Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Values
- One of the last remaining parts of the coast in Durban that is relatively untouched or little to no infrastructure.
- Important estuarine habitat at the mouth of the Mgnini River and is the largest population of mangrove trees in the Durban area.
- Quaternary of tamarisk, subtropical Estuarine Belt (Marine), Subtropical Estuarine Vegetation & Forest.
- The landward edge and patch of a thin strip between the Seashore Vegetation and the lagoon is KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland.
- Diverse animal species (see next slide).
- Rich and important feeding ground for numerous waterbirds, close to the middle of Durban.
- Source of propagules for other areas that may need rehabilitation.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT BEACHWOOD?

Cultural Heritage & Ecotourism
- Important educational and research site.
- National Heritage Site.
- Limited recreational opportunities.

EVALUATION OF PA VALUES

Discuss
What are the key features or exceptional values?
What is important about this place?
STRENGTHS & OPPORTUNITIES?

- Education and research – valuable resource in the city.
- Recreation opportunities
  - Most accessible brining location.
  - Estuary and sea good for fishing.
  - Caroong – limited, mostly for bird watching.
- Historical value – provides a glimpse into Durban’s history.
- What else?

KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Challenges associated with the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve include:

- Heavy urban runoff and deposition of litter and sediment from the Mgeni River.
- Pollution from industrial areas in the lower areas of the Mgeni catchment.
- It is believed that reduction in salt water intrusion has led to a decrease in the number of whales and mudskippers.
- Alien species (puppies and seaweed) were introduced into the upper reaches of the Beachwood Creek for mosquito control.
- Alien vegetation encroachment.
- General public safety (high crime rate).

DEVELOPING VISION & OBJECTIVES

- A long-term inspirational vision statement.
- List of objectives in priority order (be careful that objectives do not conflict with vision).
  - Precise/specific
  - Achievable & realistic
  - Time-based
  - Measurable
  - Reflect purpose, significance & values
  - Spell out ends, but not means
  - Adequately address the issues
  - Give rationale
  - Keep it simple and to the point!
- A statement indicating the management philosophy is also needed.

VISION

Key points for discussion

- Maintain a representative sample of this ecosystem.
- Conserve ecological integrity, function and character.
- Conservation in perpetuity.
- Effective management.
- Community support.
- Environmental awareness and nature-based recreation.

WAY FORWARD

- Following the public meeting, a Draft PAMP will be circulated.
- I&AP’s will be invited to comment on the Draft.
- Public Participation Report will be compiled.
- Final PAMP submitted to various Ezemvelo committees for approval.
- Final approval and signoff by Minister.

OBJECTIVES

- Retain the natural ecological integrity, function and character towards conserving a representative example of the ecosystems reflected in the protected areas.
- Put management interventions into place to counter threats to the environment and its sustainable use.
- Identify and encourage appropriate land uses and activities in areas adjacent to the protected area.
- Ensure that the protected area is effectively managed and adequately maintained.
- Establish and maintain effective links with neighbouring communities and other stakeholders.
- Identify and promote opportunities for environmental awareness.
- Support appropriate nature-based recreation, including sustainable resource use.