Umhlanga Lagoon 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
1 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve is a 26 ha protected area on the northern edge of the holiday town of Umhlanga Rocks, in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. It was proclaimed in 1980 (Proc. 74 of 1980) and includes the Umhlanga Lagoon, at the mouth of the Umhlanga River, and surrounding land. The lagoon and nature reserve are surrounded by 50-60 ha of climax coastal forest (i.e. the Hawaan Forest), which contains numerous rare forest plants, and to the north and south of the lagoon mouth, by impressive stands of dune forest.

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 management 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 plans.

This public participation report provides the background to the process followed in developing the management plan for Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve. It reflects the inputs and involvement of stakeholders in developing the management 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 management 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 Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve.

1.2 Approach and objectives of the consultation process

The approach to consultation in preparing the management plan for Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve 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 Umhlanga Lagoon 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 Umhlanga Lagoon 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 at a meeting room at the KZN Sharks Board offices on the 29 January 2013, at 10h00. Because stakeholders for Beachwood Mangroves 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 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 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 Umhlanga Lagoon 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 advertisements 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 Protect Area Management Plan were 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 McNeil, of eThekwini Municipality, and Barry James, in Howick, on 31 March 2013.

This process, and the overall process for the development of the Umhlanga Lagoon Protected Area Management Plan, is 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 Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve protected area planning committee to finalise the draft Management Plan 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 McLean, 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. This includes key issues that were raised in meetings, discussions and the Public Stakeholder Workshop, and written and verbal submissions made during the review of the draft Protected Area Management Plan.

The key issues highlighted during the process include:

1. Catchment degradation and resultant siltation of rivers and estuaries is an issue common to all estuaries and lagoons in South Africa, to a greater or lesser degree.
2. Organic loading from treated sewage discharged up-river occurs on occasion, and plans for future housing development threaten to increase sewage discharge.
3. Additional water discharge between catchments may pose a threat to the water balance and alter the breaching regime of the estuary.
4. Some erosion of the steeply inclined dune slopes, adjacent to the lagoon, has been occurring.
5. Mouth breaching is necessary when the lagoon becomes polluted. In the past, artificial breaching was also undertaken to facilitate planting and harvesting of sugarcane.
6. The road bridge approach restricts the floodplain, to some extent.
7. Housing development threatened the adjacent Hawaan Coastal Forest until it was stopped in 2003. Development pressures in the surrounding urban and sub-urban areas continue.
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>Brian Wright</td>
<td>Sent background information on the Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve. Has submitted draft concept proposal to Basil Pather, OIC Umhlanga, which provides for an upgrade of the reserve infrastructure and makes opportunities for economic development. The proposal has, in principle, support from WESSA, but not yet support from Ezemvelo.</td>
<td>Noted and forwarded information to Ezemvelo Planning Unit. It is noted that proposals of such a nature need to be dealt with and negotiated with Ezemvelo at a different level, as the PAMP’s are strategic planning documents. Ezemvelo will be engaging with the proponents with regard to this proposal and this will have to be aligned with the Protected Area Management Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoebe Carnegie</td>
<td>• Expressed disappointment at low turnout to Beachwood and Umhlanga meetings. • Mentioned plans that the Umhlanga Urban Precinct have been working on to maintain boardwalks. • Gave a list of people that could give information on the reserve.</td>
<td>• Noted and copied to Ezemvelo Planning Unit. • As per above comment, Ezemvelo will be engaging with the proponents.</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 Umhlanga Lagoon 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 Officer 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 Ngcami</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>Umhlanga Tourism</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>Buzz Bolton</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:buzzhilde@vodamail.co.za">buzzhilde@vodamail.co.za</a></td>
<td>082 9561608</td>
<td></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>David Henry</td>
<td>Bot. Soc. /WESSA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:llp@saol.com">llp@saol.com</a></td>
<td>083 2699999</td>
<td></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:gabothe@geoscience.org.za">gabothe@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>NAME</td>
<td>ORGANISATION / POSITION</td>
<td>EMAIL ADDRESS</td>
<td>TELEPHONE</td>
<td>CELL PHONE</td>
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<td>---------------</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>Bot. Soc. KZN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jocelyn26s@gmail.com">Jocelyn26s@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>083 2752216</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>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>082 559 2840</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 Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve, and public review of the draft Protected Area Management Plan, follow.

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

Go to:
wegotads.com

CAR CENTRAL REGION
APPLICANT: JOHNNY ROYAL ARCHITECTS
265 CHELSFORD ROAD, DURBAN, 4001
ON BEHALF OF VODACOM (PTY) LTD
REGISTERED PROPERTY OWNER:
NGUNYAYA TRUST (T/A)
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 1700 Mondays to Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) at the offices of Johnny Royal Architects, 265 Chelsford Road, Durban, and at the offices of Vodacom (Pty) Ltd, 160 Money Road, Parktown, or by post to P.O. Box 886, Durban, 4000, or by fax to 031 317 8688, or by email to info@vodacom.co.za by 11 February 2013. Should you fail to lodge or full comments by the said date, you will be disqualified from further participating in the process. Central Regional Office Telephone No. 031 317 7166/7037.

uMNGENI MUNICIPALITY
ERRATAM NOTICE
BID NO 03/2012 - IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PROJECTS (CATEGORY B: CIVIL ENGINEERING & ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING)
Please note that the advert appeared in the uMngeni Municipality website, public notice board and local newspapers dated the 16th of February 2012, calling suitable service providers to implement projects to submit written bid quotations to be implementing Agents for Category B Civil Engineering and Category C (Electrical Engineering) is withdrawn from public notice. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.
DR. M.B. NSIKUMA
MUNICIPAL MANAGER
P.O. Box 5
Hlomvula 3280

Ezimvelo New Wildlife
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS
BEACHWOOD MANGROVES NATURE RESERVE
UMHLANGA LAGOON NATURE RESERVE
IMPHENJATI NATURE RESERVE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS
Ezimvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (Ezimvelo) 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.87 of 2003. The Protected Area Management Plans are planning documents providing an overarching management framework and action plan, which will be compiled for the three 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 Ezimvelo.
To facilitate public input in developing these plans, you are invited to attend the Stakeholder Workshops:
Beachwood Mangroves & Umhlanga Lagoon Workshops
Venue: HBN Workshops, KZN Sharks Board
Date: 29 January 2013 at 10:00 (Beachwood Management Plan)
Date: 29 January 2013 at 13:00 (Umhlanga Management Plan)
Mphenjati Management Plan Workshop
Venue: Administration Office, Mphenjati 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 Ezimvelo website www.kznwilife.com (Pathway: Conservation > "Public comment" > "Coast region" > 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 16 February 2013. For planning purposes, if you are attending any of the Workshops, please register by 25 January 2013.
Contact: Barry James 033-3304 984/982 8964 089
Fax: 0862 125 348
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
MPENJATI NATURE RESERVE

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

During the last few years, the Department of Environmental Affairs and the documentation of these nature reserves and in response to the consultation with the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 107 of 2010, the Involvement Area Management Team is developing documents, including management frameworks and strategic plans, to guide the management of these nature reserves. The involvement of stakeholders through the consultation process has seen a surge in participation.

To facilitate the process of developing these plans, there are several key aspects to consider when developing the Workshops:

- Beachwood Mangroves and Umhlanga Lagoon Workshops
  - Venue: UMA Artisan, 626 Umart Road
  - Date: 25 January 2013 at 10:00 (Beachwood Management Plan)
  - Date: 29 January 2013 at 13:00 (Umhlanga Management Plan)

A background information document is available on the Department of Environmental Affairs website. This document provides guidance on the process and is available on the Department of Environmental Affairs website.

In order to ensure that the workshops are conducted effectively, a website is available for stakeholders to access the information and provide feedback.

Contact: Mary James 031 339 4904, 082 806 6998 Fax: 031 272 3490
Email: maryjames@iae.co.za

The purpose of these workshops is to provide a platform for stakeholders to participate in the development of the management plans for these nature reserves. Feedback from these workshops will be incorporated into the final management plans.
STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOPS

BEACHWOOD MANGROVES NATURE RESERVE
UMHANGA LAGOON NATURE RESERVE
N'DUFU 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 a timeline 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 into compiling these plans, you are invited to attend the Stakeholder Workshops:

Beachwood Mangroves & Umhanga Lagoon Workshops
Venue: For both Workshops: KZN Sharks Board
Date: 28 January 2013 at 10:00 (Beachwood Management Plan)
Date: 29 January 2013 at 13:00 (Umhanga Management Plan)

Ndifu Management Plan Workshop
Venue: Administrative Office, Ndifu Nature Reserve
Date: 31 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 (Pathway: Conservation > PublicCOMMENT > Coastal region with the protected area name and the word BID in the Name)

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

Contact: Barry James 031-3364949/3365469 Fax: 031-3365469
Email: brousse@kzn.co.za

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

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

15th Jan 2013

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

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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: 31 January 2013 at 12:00 (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 Broussas-James & Associates and is also 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).

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: broussas@esl.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.
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 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:

- The Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife website at www.pathway.kznwildlife.co.za (Open Kingdom) > Document Library > Protected Area Management Plans
- 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@ai.co.za • Fax: 039 212 2248 • PO Box 1304, Howick, 3290

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

Environment KZN Wildlife (Ezemvelo) is the appointed Management Authority for all mentioned nature reserves and is responsible for the compilation of Protected Area Management Plans in accordance with the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act No. 97 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 participatory 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:

- The Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife website at Fethwayi > "Conservation" > "Public comment" > "Coast region" with the protected area titles and the word "PMAP"
- Printed copies for viewing will be available at the Umkhanga, 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, breweze@asi.co.za
Fax: 0862125368, PO Box 1304, Howick, 3290
Certificate of Publication
from
SOUTH COAST HERALD
(Proprietor: Penrose Holdings Ltd)
PO Box 1263, Port Shepstone, 4240

CALL FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE
BEACHWOOD MANGROVES
UMHLANGA LAGOON
MPEMPASI
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Ezemvelo) is the appointed Management Authority for abovementioned 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” > “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: brousse@sal.co.za
Fax: 0862126246, 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
“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 Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve. The compilation of PAMPs for Protected Areas is a statutory requirement laid out on 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 Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve

The Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve is a 26 ha reserve on the northern edge of the holiday town of Umhlanga Rocks, in the Ethekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH). It was proclaimed in 1980 (Proc. 74 of 1980) and includes the Umhlanga Lagoon, at the mouth of the Umhlanga River, and surrounding land. The lagoon and nature reserve is surrounded by 50-60 ha of climax coastal forest (i.e. the Hawaan Forest), which contains numerous rare forest plants, and to the north and south of the lagoon mouth, by impressive stands of dune forest.

To get to the nature reserve, from the M4 northbound, take the Umhlanga Rocks Drive/M12 exit, turn right at the T-junction into Lighthouse Road. Continue along Lighthouse until you can turn left into Lagoon Drive. Follow this road, at the end of which is the entrance to the nature reserve.

To encourage visitor utilisation of Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve, a car park, for approximately 20 vehicles, a boardwalk, two picnic sites, ablution block, pedestrian bridge, viewsite/lookout point and system of trails/bridle paths have been developed in the nature reserve.

The O’Connor Promenade, which hugs the shoreline, ends where the Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Trail begins. This is an hour-and-a-half trail, on a well marked path, with benches and picnic spots discreetly provided. It wanders through stunning coastal forest on boardwalks that cross the Ohlange River on its way to the lagoon, buttressed by dunes. The trail leads to both the beach and the lagoon, which is popular among parasailing enthusiasts and boardsailors.
3. Purpose

The Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve was established to conserve and maintain the land and its natural systems surrounding the lagoon. At a later stage, the lagoon was also proclaimed as part of the nature reserve. In the context of the rapidly developing Greater Durban Metropolitan Area, the nature reserve remains as a natural remnant of what the earlier landscape portrayed.

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. There are 74 estuaries in KZN, of which only 10 fall within official protected areas. 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.

The Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve, as a coastal reserve, provides protection for the estuarine and unique climax coastal forests. The main significance of this nature reserve is that it is one of the last remaining green belts on the Durban coast. Combined with the Hawaan Forest, it serves as a reminder of what the coast looked like historically and provides a refuge and habitat for the local biodiversity. The peri-urban position of the nature reserve will cause it to become more valuable as the years pass by, especially for educational, recreational, aesthetic and spiritual reasons and its contribution to the conservation of biodiversity in the Province.

As a part of the Greater Durban Metropolitan Area and Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (DMOSS), the management of this nature reserve forms the core of nature conservation management activities of the North Local Council. It helps link natural areas like Hawaan Forest, Forest 31, Peace Cottage and Umdhloti Lagoon.

Shell middens of archaeological importance occur and are protected in the reserve, which is also popular for bird watching and of particular education importance because of its close proximity to Durban and easy accessibility.

Visitor facilities at Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve include a boardwalk and trail. No harvesting of bait organisms is allowed and relatively little fishing takes place in the estuary. No use of powerboats or motorised boats is allowed in the estuary.

5. History of Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve

The name of the lagoon is derived from extensive reed beds which are found in the river. Umhlanga is the Zulu word for reeds, so the Umhlanga River can be translated as “the river of reeds”.

On 10 July 1980, the lower reaches of the Mhlanga Lagoon (i.e. the area seaward of the N2 National Road bridge) were proclaimed a nature reserve, to be administered by the then Natal Parks Board (Proclamation 74 of 1980). The Natal Parks Board has been succeeded by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.
6. Key Management Issues

Challenges associated with the Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve include:

- Catchment degradation and resultant siltation of rivers and estuaries is an issue common to all estuaries and lagoons in South Africa, to a greater or lesser degree.
- Organic loading from treated sewage discharged up-river occurs on occasion, and plans for future housing development threaten to increase sewage discharge.
- Additional water discharge between catchments may pose a threat to the water balance of the estuary.
- Some erosion of the steeply inclined dune slopes adjacent to the lagoon has been occurring.
- Mouth breaching is necessary when the lagoon becomes polluted. In the past, artificial breaching was also undertaken to facilitate planting and harvesting of sugarcane.
- The road bridge approach restricts the floodplain to some extent.
- Housing development threatened the adjacent Hawaan Coastal Forest until it was stopped in 2003. Development pressures in the surrounding urban and sub-urban areas continue.

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 14h00, 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@sai.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 (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@sai.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, Umhlanga Lagoon, Beachwood Mangroves 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>
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<tbody>
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<td>031 2741150</td>
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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.

Attendees (all attended the Beachwood Mangroves meeting first and then stayed on for the Umhlanga Lagoon Workshop, with the exception of the last three people on the list, who came only for the Umhlanga Lagoon Workshop):

<table>
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Later arrivals only for the Umhlanga Lagoon Meeting

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MINUTES

Minutes of a Stakeholder Workshop, held on Tuesday, 29 January 2013, at the KZN Sharks Board. The meeting began at 12.20.

Present: Mr Barry James (Chairman) and members of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the public, as per the attendance register. All those who attended the first meeting concerning the Beachwood Mangroves, stayed for the second meeting about the Umhlanga Lagoon, and three more members of the public joined them. Since the initial group had already been taken through the introductory slides, very little time was spent on that component of the presentation and the focus was on the specific issues associated with Umhlanga Lagoon.

Mr James gave a presentation outlining the nature, significance and key management issues of the Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve.

During discussion of the key features of the nature reserve, the following were mentioned:
1. There were very few mangroves in the lagoon itself, the only species in fact being *Barringtonia racemosa*. Although papers read by Mr James mention *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, nobody in the group had seen any there.
2. There were shell middens on the banks of the river. Ezemvelo intended to get the GPS coordinates of these. It was noted that it is usually the practice that the GPS coordinates of sensitive archaeological or biodiversity features are not made public, so the coordinates will not be included in the PAMP.

3. A skull had been discovered and sent to the Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg.

In discussing the animal species present, Mr George Nair of Ezemvelo queried the “freshwater mullet” reportedly present. Mr James said that this record came from the Ezemvelo database and it was noted that Mr Rob Karssing from Ezemvelo had done sampling there recently, so the records should be accurate.

Mr James invited all present to contribute any relevant historical information.

Mrs Phoebe Carnegie said that the Indian farmers had once grown rice along the river, and that stretch had been known as “the paddyfields”. Mr Wade Holland added that the construction of the bridge and the M4 in the 1960s had put an end to agriculture there.

Mrs Carnegie said that at the southern end, “The Breakers” hotel had been built, on what was previously swampy land, which had been filled up with builders’ rubble.

She added that freshwater came into the system from a spring in the Hawaan Forest and that this spring was still active. It was also noted from the floor that the source of water for the rice paddies had come from that spring.

Activities in the nature reserve:

No bait was allowed to be collected in the estuary, but was allowed to be collected on the beach.

It was noted during the discussion that it would be difficult to prosecute a person with a valid bait-collecting licence if found collecting bait within the nature reserve, because the bait collecting licences do not stipulate that collecting is not allowed in reserves. This issue will need to be addressed in the Management Plan.

Informal canoeing could be done, but was hampered by the lack of security for vehicles which are parked along the river.

Mr Holland said that the nature reserve was very small, and even the few people who walked there had an impact on the plant life. A boardwalk was needed to protect the flora and fauna. He stressed that part of the sustainability of the nature reserve was getting Tongaat Hulett and eThekwini into a stewardship programme. The process needed to be resurrected, as it had reached a crossroads.

Key management issues:

As part of the presentation, a slide discussing the key management issues was discussed and the following issues were highlighted from the floor.

1. In heavy rain, sewerage washed into the river from the informal settlement, known as “Chopper Town”, and people were still washing their clothes in the river.
2. Mrs Carnegie felt that it was the most polluted river in KZN, although others felt that the Umgeni deserved this distinction.
3. Mention was made of the problem of transfer of water from other catchments which affects the overall water balance, and that dredging during sandwinning had an impact on the quality of the water, increasing the level of fine particles.

Mr Morty said that high seas had seriously eroded the banks of the river.

Mr Morty felt that more focus was needed on reserve issues, and that external issues were not for the reserve manager to deal with. Mr James replied that the manager needed to be aware of external problems, and although his capacity was limited, he could have an effect on what happened outside the nature reserve. Mr Craig Mulqueeny, of Ezemvelo, said that the manager could raise those issues at Catchment Management Forums, with stakeholders upstream. In essence, it was agreed that a manager needs to focus his limited time, energy and resources on the nature reserve, but, wherever possible, to contribute to appropriate forums that deal with issues that impact on the nature reserve.
There was also discussion about breaching and Mrs Phoebe Carnegie mentioned that breaching of estuaries was no longer allowed by law. Mr Ken Morty corrected this and said that under certain conditions it may be done, provided the proper motivation was made. It was noted that KZN Wildlife are entitled to make the decision as to whether or not breaching is needed, but that they would do that in consultation with the eThekwini Municipality. It was emphasised by Mr Mulqueeney that the historical breaching to facilitate the planting of sugarcane is most definitely not an option these days; nevertheless, all agreed that it needed to be included in the record as part of the historical context.

Mrs Carnegie said that maintenance of the bridges in the nature reserve was critical, and a special management plan for this was essential.

Mrs Carnegie then presented a proposal for a trail in the area. It had been developed by Mr Brian Wright from UIP and Mr Grant Treble from WESSA. The idea had come about because there had been constant problems with the path in the nature reserve. Ezemvelo had done a good job, she said, but it would not last. The plan was for a raised, wheelchair-friendly boardwalk, toilets, a restaurant and a viewing point, some of which went along the frontal dunes. She believed that there was a need to stabilise the dunes, and the reserve had to work, and pay for itself. Mr Holland said that there would be ecological problems with putting structures on the dunes, which needed to be extremely sensitively handled. This comment was agreed with by Miss Hatton and Mr James. Miss Hatton noted that the proposal had not been formally presented to KZN Wildlife, so at this stage it was neither accepted nor rejected. It would have to go through the formal channels.

Mr Carnegie mentioned previous problems of commercial housing estates being developed, but at the moment things were going well. However, Mrs Carnegie said, there was nothing in the law to stop anyone building in the Hawaan Forest. There was disagreement in the meeting on this point, as the EIA process and the Forest Act prevented such development.

Vision and Objectives:
It was stressed that “community support” meant more than acceptance and co-operation; it included partnerships, sponsorship, working together with honorary officers and outside organisations, etc.
Mr David Henry, of Botsoc and WESSA, who had arrived halfway through the meeting, said the nature reserve could not be run in isolation. He spoke of a Conservation Trust, including Tongaat Hulett and eThekwini, which had been on the table for years.
There was an area of 400 ha which should be integrated and managed as one eco-site, dealing with the problems of security, poaching and alien invasions. (He gave the example of Cranbourne, in Melbourne, Australia.) Tongaat Hulett had been enthusiastic, but nothing had happened. Action was needed, as the Sibaya Precinct would destroy the plan.
Mr Holland commented that Ezemvelo, eThekwini and Tongaat Hulett had met to discuss the issue a few months previously, but there had been a lack of agreement and no progress had been made.
Miss Hatton said that the concept fell beyond the scope of the current Management Plan development process; Mr James said that it is important to talk about the bigger picture and it would have some conservation value, but that it needed to be part of a separate forum, of which KZN Wildlife would be one of a number of players. Mr Ken Morty commented that this initiative would be part of a greater Biodiversity Stewardship Programme and asked if the appropriate people from the Stewardships Programme had been involved in any discussions in this respect, namely Greg Martingdale. Mr Henry and Mr Holland clarified that the conditions of the ROD for the Sibaya Precinct stated that as soon as the first Sibaya plot was sold, a conservation trust would have to be formed.

Mr Holland asked whether Ezemvelo had ownership of the nature reserve. Miss Hatton explained that it was state land, which had been proclaimed as a nature reserve.
Mr Holland asked what the goals of the Management Plan were.
Miss Hatton explained that the management team determined what needed to be done, and set time lines for achieving targets. The Management Plan would not include fine details such as an alien plant control plan, but would describe key interventions, i.e. it would identify that interventions such as an alien plant control plan were needed, but would not develop/describe that plan. Mr Holland felt that Ezemvelo did not have sufficient presence in the area. They needed to be seen as the authority, and to improve their public relations.

Bongani Ngcamu, an Honorary Officer who had been guiding trails in the nature reserve, was asked whether he had experienced any problems on his walks. He replied that there were no security problems for visitors when they were with him, but there were problems when people were alone. Vagrants came into the nature reserve from the M4 highway, or from the mouth, as there was no fence.

There being no further discussion, the meeting closed at 1.30pm.

Minutes recorded by C.Speirs.
Scanned copy of the attendance register, as proof of attendance at the Public Stakeholder Workshop (all attendees for the Beachwood Mangroves Workshop attended the Umhlanga Lagoon Workshop, plus three extra people joined the group for the latter meeting).

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

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UMHLANGA LAGOON NATURE RESERVE

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

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING
- The compilation of Protected Area Management Plans (PAMP) is a statutory requirement of the NEEMA 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.
- Public can assist with articulating vision and providing missing background information.

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 Chairman.
- 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!

UMHLANGA LAGOON LOCALITY

KEY FEATURES OF UMHLANGA LAGOON
- Popular birding location, located adjacent to holiday village of Umhlanga Rocks.
- Lagoon, estuary and partially vegetated sandbar.
- Important coastal and dune forest.
- Some mangroves.
- Primary dune vegetation.
- Forested dune cordon.
- Archaeologically important shell middens.

THE PROCESS
## Structure of the Management Plan

### What is Important about Umhlanga Lagoon?

**Biodiversity and natural heritage values**

- One of the last remaining parts of the coast in Durban that is relatively unspoilt or close to a natural state.
- Important estuarine habitat at the mouth of the Mhlanga River.
- Provides protection for diversity of habitats: Lagoon, estuary, coastal and dune forest, some mangroves (Bruguiera gymnorrhiza & Barringtonia racemosa), primary dune vegetation and forested dune corccon.
- Diversity of animal species (see next slide).

### What is Important about Umhlanga Lagoon?

#### Animal Species

- 16 gastropod species, including endemic Cochliotoma semidecussata (Durban Agate Snail) & Cochliotoma semigranulosa (Half-grained Agate Snail).
- 22 fish species, including vulnerable Freshwater Mullet (Myxus capensis).
- 6 crustacean species.
- 2 recorded reptile species.
- 313 bird species (including Hawaian Forest).
- 5 recorded mammal species.

### 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 – fishing, bird watching, canoeing, nature walks, botanical outings.
- What else?

### Key Management Issues

Problems associated with the Umhlanga Lagoon include:

- Catchment degradation and resultant siltation of rivers.
- Organic loading from treated sewage discharged up rivers/tributaries on occasions.
- Additional water discharge between catchments may pose a threat to the water balance of the estuary.
- Some erosion of the steeply inclined dune slopes adjacent to the lagoon has been occurring.
- Mouth breaching is necessary when the lagoon becomes polluted. In the past, artificial breaching was also undertaken to facilitate painting and harvesting of sugarcane.
- The road bridge approach restricts the foreshore to some extent.
- Development pressures in the surrounding urban and suburban areas continue.
- Some gaps in biophysical information and management history.
DEVELOPING VISION & OBJECTIVES

- A long-term inspirational vision statement.
- List of objectives in priority order (be careful that objectives do not conflict with vision).
  - Specific
  - Achievable & realistic
  - Time-related
  - 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 FOR UMHLANGA LAGOON

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.