



DLINZA FOREST NATURE RESERVE



PREPARATION OF A PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Purpose of this document

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

The Nature Reserve

The Dlinza Forest Nature Reserve (DFNR), is a 319 Hectare (Ha) protected area located in the town of Eshowe in KwaZulu-Natal. The nature reserve is bordered by a host of amenities as it is set in an urban area and is located within the King Cetshwayo District Municipality and the uMlalazi Local Municipality.

The Dlinza Forest Nature Reserve was initially proclaimed in 1952 through the Natal Parks, Game and Fish Preservation Ordinance of 1947 under the alternative name of Hlinza Forest Nature Reserve. Furthermore, to this the nature reserve was re-proclaimed in 2012 to incorporate the Dlinza Forest Nature Reserve B. The nature reserve is surrounded by a number of protected areas such as the Ongoye Forest Nature Reserve which lies 25km to the east of the reserve and the Entumeni Nature Reserve which lies 7km west of Dlinza Forest Nature Reserve.

The Reserve does offer some low use tourism activities such as birding, walking trails and the Forest Aerial Boardwalk.

The Dlinza Forest Nature Reserve comprises of the following vegetation: Moist Coast Hinterland Grassland, Eastern Scarp Forests: Northern Coastal Scarp Forest and Swamp Forests: Voacanga thoursii Swamp Forest. Floral species of importance includes *Dermatobotrys saundersii*, *Calanthe sylvatica* and Giant Candelabra Flower (*Brunsvigia grandiflora*). The Hairbell (*Dierama dubium*) and *Bolusiella maudiae* are endemic to KwaZulu-Natal. The Bastard Onionwood or Common Onionwood (*Cassipourea gerrardii*) is protected under the ordinance.

Important fauna species at the Dlinza Forest Nature Reserve includes the Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon (*Columba delegorguei*) and Spotted Ground-Thrush (*Zoothera guttata*) which are considered Endangered according to the South African Red Data Book whilst the African Crowned Eagle (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*) is listed as Vulnerable. Other species such as the Black sparrowhawk (*Accipiter melanoleucus*), African Goshawk (*Accipiter tachiro*), Spotted Eagle-Owl (*Bubo africanus*), Long-crested Eagle (*Lophoaelus occipitalis*) and African Wood-Owl (*Strix woodfordii*) are listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Other mammals present in the game reserve includes Blue duiker (*Philantomba monticola bicolor*), Sclater's forest shrew (*Myosorex sclateri*) and Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*).

Dlinza Forest Nature Reserve is also home to the Dlinza Forest pinwheel (*Trachycystis clifdeni*) which is listed as Critically Endangered according to the South African Red Data Book. The Zululand Emperor Swallowtail (*Papilio ophidicephalus zuluensis*) and the Bicoloured Skipper (*Abantis bicolor*) are listed as Rare. The Pennington's Forest-king Charaxes (*Charaxes xiphares penningtoni*) is endemic to KwaZulu-Natal whilst the Albatross White (*Appias sabina phoebe*) and Angola White Lady (*Graphium angolanus angolanus*) is restricted to KwaZulu-Natal. The Douglas' earthworm (*Tritogenia douglasi*) and the Dlinza Forest wingless

grasshopper (*Armstrongium dlinza*) is present in the reserve and is restricted and endemic to KwaZulu-Natal.

The reserve also provides the perfect habitat for reptiles and amphibian species such as the Eshowe dwarf chameleon (*Bradypodion caeruleogula*) which is listed as Endangered under the South African Red Data Book. The Olive ground snake (*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*), also known as the Black house snake or olive house snake is also present in the reserve and endemic to South Africa.

The protected area management plan

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

Key management issues

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

- There is a need to improve relationships with stakeholders in general and improve interaction with the municipality.
- The incomplete boundary fence of the reserve is a challenge that impacts on the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts to prevent poaching, vandalism and dumping and littering.
- Longstanding infrastructure passing through the nature reserve contributes towards pollution.
- Ecological challenges within the nature reserve that require management intervention and protection include infestation of invasive plant species and protection of key species.
- Operational management challenges within the nature reserve that require management intervention include insufficient staff to effectively patrol and undertake law enforcement and inadequate funding to carry out operational management duties.

Stakeholder consultation process

One of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's principles in preparing protected area management plans is collaboration and transparency. Stakeholders will be canvassed and their inputs will be facilitated in the development of the plan.

A stakeholder workshop has been advertised and will be held on the **4th October 2018** at the **Mpushini Park Hall (Windham road, Eshowe) (10:00am)** to discuss the values, vision and any management issues that need to be addressed.

Once the draft protected area management plan has been prepared, it will be made available for public review and comment prior to its finalisation and submission to the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board and MEC.

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

Shiven Rambarath
E-mail: Shiven.rambarath@kznwildlife.com
Tel: (033) 845 1464