



ENTUMENI 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 Entumeni Nature Reserve (EMNR), is a 319 Hectare (Ha) protected area located 7km west of Eshowe in KwaZulu-Natal. The nature reserve is surrounded by various farmlands and is located within the King Cetshwayo District Municipality and the uMlalazi Local Municipality.

The Entumeni Nature Reserve was initially proclaimed in 1970 through the Natal Parks, Game and Fish Preservation Ordinance of 1947. Furthermore, to this the nature reserve was re-proclaimed in 1973. The nature reserve is surrounded by a number of protected areas such as the Nkandla Forest Complex which lies to the west of the reserve and the Dlinza Forest Nature Reserve which lies 7km east of Entumeni Nature Reserve.

The Reserve does offer some low use tourism activities such as walking trails and a picnic site.

The Entumeni Nature Reserve comprises of the following vegetation: Moist Coast Hinterland Grassland and the Eastern Scarp Forests: Northern Coastal Scarp. Floral species of importance includes the Dwarf Wild Vbegonia (*Begonia dregei*) and *Acalypha antumenica* which is classified as Endangered, according to South African Red Data List. The Cooper's Aloe (*Aloe cooperi cooperi*), Star Flower (*Hypoxis hemerocallidea*) and Cape Beech (*Rapanea melanophloeos*) are Declining according to the South African Red Data List. *Stangeria eriopus* is listed as Vulnerable according to the South African Red Data List; Protected under the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations and listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This goes to show that Entumeni Nature Reserve plays an important role in the protection of significant species.

Important fauna species at the Entumeni 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*) and the Black Saw-wing (*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*) which is also known as the Black Saw-wing Swallow is listed as Vulnerable. Other species such as the Little Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter minullus*), African Goshawk (*Accipiter tachi*), Spotted Eagle-Owl (*Bubo africanus*), Long-crested Eagle (*Lophaetus occipitalis*) and African Wood-Owl (*Strix woodfordii*) are list 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*), Common duiker or Grey duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*), Sclater's forest shrew (*Myosorex sclateri*) and Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*).

Entumeni Nature Reserve is also home to the Critically Endangered Millar's tiger moth (*Callioratis millari*) known only to occur in the Nature Reserve and on a neighbouring farm. The Albatross White (*Appias sabina phoebe*) which is listed as Rare according to the

South African Red Data Book occurs within the Nature Reserve. The Natal black millipede (*Doratogonus natalensis*) is listed as Vulnerable. The Pennington's Forest-king Charaxes (*Charaxes xiphares penningtoni*) is endemic to KwaZulu-Natal whilst the Margaret's forest wingless grasshopper (*Eremidium (Natalium) margaretae*) is restricted and endemic to KwaZulu-Natal. The Entumeni wingless grasshopper (*Armstrongium dlinza*) is present in the reserve and is also restricted and endemic to KwaZulu-Natal.

The reserve also provides the perfect habitat for reptiles and amphibian species such as the Natal leaf-folding frog (*Afrixalus spinifrons spinifrons*) and the Plain Stream Frog (*Strongylopus wageri*) which is also known as the Natal Upland Frog or Wager's Stream Frog and is listed as Near Threatened under the South African Red Data Book. Bony fish such as the Redtail barb (*Barbus gurneyi*) and the KwaZulu-Natal yellowfish (*Labeobarbus natalensis*) is also present in the reserve and endemic to KwaZulu-Natal.

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.
- 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:

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