

**BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP
OF HERITAGE PARK
MEETING HELD AT BOJANALA PLATINUM DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 10H00**

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

Daan Buys welcomed all and asked Maretha Shroyer to chair the first session dealing with the Mmamabula Project for Escom Transmission, where after he will continue chairing the rest of the meeting. The meeting does not have secretariat support and requested Willie Boonzaaier to assist by keeping minutes.

2. ATTENDANCE

Present:

Mr	Daan Buijs	DACE
	Oupa Modise	BPDM
	Sam Mochine	HP Manager
	Willie Boonzaaier	HP Project Manager
Ms	Maretha Shroyer	NWPTB
	Jean Beater	PBAI – EIA Division
	Jonel Boonzaaier	Margen Industrial Services
	Mamokeke Mafumo	Escom Transmission

Apologies:

Koos Herbst	NWPTB
Mark Nkozi	DACE
Pieter Nel	NWPTB
Willem Boshoff	DACE

3. AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

4. ESCOM TRANSMISSION LINES

Jean Beater presented the Mmamabula Project as well as the Matimba Project. She explained that six 400 KV lines (the largest currently available to Escom) is planned that along the recommended route will dissect the Heritage Park and the planned Swartruggens – Lindleyspoort – Pilanesberg conservation corridor and that four power lines are planned for the Matimba Project that will dissect the Pilanesberg – Vaalkopdam – Ramokokstad – Borakalalo conservation corridor (See map attached).

It was explained to the Escom delegation that the Park Expansion Programme and the conservation corridors will be severely affected by the proposed routes for these power lines. Specific areas of environmental / heritage sensitivity that was mentioned during the meeting included the following:

- Pilanesberg National Park and the intention to apply for World Heritage Site status, based on its unique geological formation
- The Heritage Park and specifically the Lebatlane Game Reserve which is currently being expanded
- Vlaktefontein 207JP archaeological site (believed to be on Escom's records, as Escom in the late 1980's or early 1990's discovered this important site and rerouted planned power lines as a result thereof)
- Wetland on Gansvley within the Heritage Park on farms Gansvley 240 KP and Jakhalskraal 239 KP.

- Swartruggens Mountain Bushveld biome north of Swartruggens towards Lindleyspoort
- Crocodile Catchment Conservation Corridor attempting to protect the Elands River and Moretele River as part of the Crocodile Catchment.

It was further explained that the Protected Areas Expansion Programme of the NWPTB is linked to the national initiative which again is informed by the World Parks Conference, where SA committed itself to increased conservation coverage.

Resolution 06/09/01: It was agreed that other entities with an interest in the proposed Escom Transmission Lines will be informed and that letters reflecting the responses of the following entities will be prepared and submitted to the consultants:

- | | |
|---|----|
| • Heritage Park | MS |
| • DACE | DB |
| • NWPTB re Protected Areas Expansion Strategy | MS |
| • Pilanesberg National Park | MS |
| • Lebatlane | WB |
| • Gansvley | WB |
| • Vaalkopdam | MS |

These letters have to be submitted to the consultants as soon as possible. The Escom representative and the consultants promised to keep the Working Group informed and to send the background documentation. They were thanked for their presentation before they left the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1. Terms of Reference

The draft Biodiversity Working Group Terms of Reference tabled at the previous meeting was adopted with minor changes (see copy of final ToR attached). It was agreed that the HP Manager will meet with each of the four partner Municipalities to identify appropriate representatives to serve on this and other Working Groups. If possible, the Project Manager will accompany him to these meetings.

Resolution 06/09/02: The Biodiversity Working Group Terms of Reference will be tabled at the next Steering Committee meeting. SM

5.2. Boynton Scoping Report

It was reported that the Biodiversity Working Group did respond to the Boynton Scoping Report.

5.3. Heritage Park SEA

The meeting after some deliberation agreed that the report was not satisfactory in its current form and that it needs more detail.

Resolution 06/09/03: The Heritage Park SEA report is not accepted in its current form. It needs to be summarised in a format useful to planners, with a link to proper maps; with broad zoning recommendations; and development parameters. This will be reported;

- To the next Steering Committee meeting. SM
- To DACE as the funding agency responsible for overseeing the project. DB

5.4. Transfrontier Park

Resolution 06/09/04: The issue regarding the intended Transfrontier Park is referred to the Steering Committee. SM

5.5. Roles and Responsibilities

Concern was expressed about the unclear roles and responsibilities of DACE and NWPTB with regards Protected Area Expansion and therefore also the Heritage Park.

Resolution 06/09/05: the meeting recommends to the Steering Committee that they urgently facilitate a meeting between DACE and NWPTB to resolve the following issues and reflect the outcome in an MOU to be signed by both parties: **MS/DB**

- **Respective Roles and Responsibilities with regards to Protected Area Expansion Strategy**
- **Clarity regarding biodiversity vs other conservation objectives and the criteria for identifying and prioritising Protected Area Expansion Programmes**
- **Clarity regarding the potential competition between Wildlife Conservation and Agriculture (e.g. cattle grazing vs game)**
- **That the Heritage Park project needs to be officially presented to the DACE DDG and that a joint presentation between NWPTB and DACE should thereafter be made to DEAT.**

5.6. Mining Collaboration Strategy

It was reported that the Mining Collaboration Committee was no longer functional and that the Mining Collaboration Strategy has never been signed by the mines, the NWPTB and the Heritage Park. In the meantime, exploration and mining is continuing without any monitoring or supervision by the Heritage Park and the NWPTB.

Resolution 06/09/06: The meeting recommend to the Steering Committee that;

- **The Mining Collaboration Strategy should be promptly signed by the mines, the NWPTB and the Heritage Park;**
- **A mining Collaboration Committee needs to be appointed; and**
- **A Mining Collaboration Implementation Strategy and appropriate capacities and funding must be negotiated with the mines, which will allow the intended monitoring and coordination of mining activities within the Heritage Park corridor.**

5.7. Land Incorporation Policy

The meeting noted that the Land Incorporation Policy was approved by NWPTB late last year and it was agreed that a copy will be sent to Mr Buijs. **WB**

6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

6.1. Secretariat Function

Concern was expressed about the lack of secretariat support.

Resolution 06/09/07: The Heritage Park Manager will address the current problems experienced as a result of the non-availability of Secretariat Services. All documents will in future be kept at the Park Manager's office where a formal database and register of records will be kept. **SM**

7. NEXT MEETING

To be informed after the next Steering Committee meeting.

8. CLOSURE

The meeting adjourned at 11h50.