

## Feedback from First General Meeting

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On Sunday 29 July general meetings were held at two venues. The purpose of the meetings was to provide an update on the Nature Reserve Project, and create working structures for the project as we proceed.

### Apologies:

Dalene and Stefaan van der Merwe (injured)  
Mara and Lizelle Kruger (abroad)  
Terry and Audrey (away)  
Gillian Laing  
Tim and Diane Savory  
Alpha Greiff  
Viljay Loosen (wedding)

Richard  
Coert Steynberg  
Enrico Maritz of Bayete  
Tanya and Francis Gomes  
Vaughan Hattingh  
Anthony and Helen Duigan

### Attendance:

Mercia Komen  
Glyn French  
Carl Pellisier  
Derrik Flynn  
Peter Nagel  
Steve Panos  
Reinter Family  
Richard Smallman  
Horst Klemm  
Nick and Christina Hanks  
Ian and Erika Huntley  
Rob and Christine Garbett  
Wessel Wessels  
Lynne Clarke  
Geoff and Caroline Allen

Charlotte Hanks and Brevis Andrews  
Andre Kruger  
Eugene Opperman  
Robert and Heather van der Heiden  
Louise Erasmus  
Mary and Simon Scott  
Johan and Rita van Dyk  
Fransa and Louis Cole  
Duncan Stork  
Keith Reynolds  
Howard Bichard  
Christie Le Roux  
Brian Mairs  
Ward Councillor Ringane

The meeting opened with announcements from the floor, including feedback on the appeal to Mountain View Estate development, and reminder of the public meeting for the Waste Water Treatment project in Schurveberg.

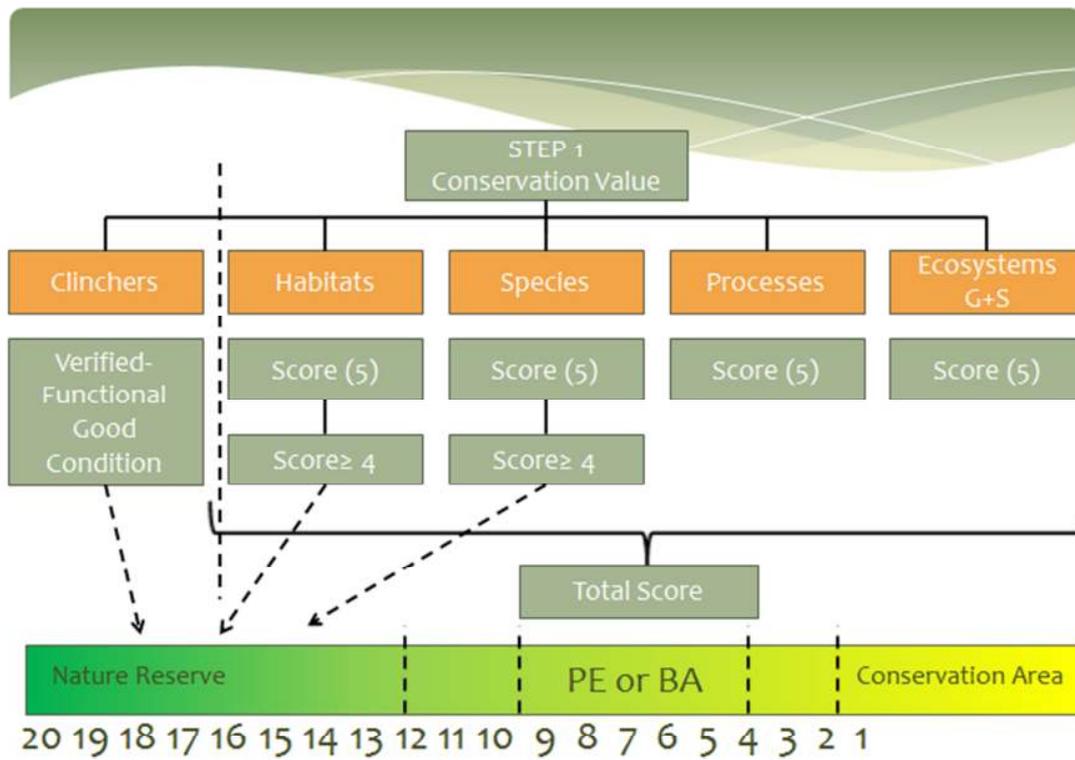
## Presentation on progress

Mercia Komen gave a short presentation on progress.

- \* 160+ portions of land formal showed commitment to Nature Reserve
- \* 40+ portions indicated an intention to sign the contract

The purpose of the contracts was to demonstrate formally the level of commitment of landowners and the scope of commitment for formal conservation.

The effort to sign contract stopped once a sufficient number of landowners were reached, and the area committed to conservation met the criteria of the Stewardship Programme



Mercia explained that the region met the requirement in terms of –

- Ecosystem goods and services
- Ecosystem processes
- Species – red data species found throughout the region (confirmed by studies)
- A diversity of habitats

The size of area for which landowners had signed agreements, allows for a viable Nature Reserve.

# Achievement

\* Checked if we qualified as a viable Reserve

- Vegetation types
- Threatened Ecosystems
- Focus area for expansion

## YES

Having established that there is a sufficient “baseline” of support, the first phase of the project was closed. The contracts will NOT be presented to the provincial authority, nor will the documents be counter-signed.

The project enters a Second Phase in which landowners will sign agreements for Nature Reserve status, not merely Biodiversity Stewardship.

The emphasis is on autonomy. We decide how we want to manage, operate and sustain the Nature Reserve.

We draft internal rules, we commit to a constitution, and we have some management principles.

The State’s role is to validate that the objectives of the Nature Reserve can be met through the implementation of the Management Plan we prepare, and the goals we determine.

The State is required to audit the Nature Reserve once a year. The audit is to our benefit, as it allows for oversight of the work being done by the body WE elect to implement the management plan. Should those elected representative from OUR community be failing US and the Reserve, we will be alerted in time to remedy the situation. The State can de-proclaim a Nature Reserve that is not meeting its objectives.

## Obligations

The Landowners elect a **Management Authority**

The **Management Authority** signs an agreement with the State on the management of the Reserve. This requires the acceptance of the Management Plan we agree and present.

The Management Authority signs an agreement with every participating landowner which binds the landowner to the rules and constitution WE determine.

## What do we have in common?

There are three widely shared dreams for the area:

- Living with nature, enjoying the benefits of a natural setting
- Security and Safety
- Appreciation in Value of Assets (land and resources)

With a collective vision that the majority of landowners can support, we could:

- Priorities the activities that will bring about the greatest improvement
- Manage the costs effectively, and do the work efficiently
- All benefit from an improved environment

Examples were illustrated:





And present our best offers in a sensitive, responsible manner



Create things which FIT,  
Are suited to the area  
And add value for all

Further, it was suggested that the region be **defined by the rare and endemic species** which did once occur, but no longer roam here: oribi and sable. These species are particularly suited to the area, are charismatic and attractive.



## Being Safer

The legislation for proclaiming a Nature requires access control.

While this incurs costs to implement, the benefits for the wider community are clear -:

- Prevent activities which damage the environment
  - Poaching
  - Theft of fauna and flora
  - Cutting indigenous trees
  - Removing rocks (stromatolites!)
- Improves security in general

A shared outer boundary can be more effectively managed for containment, control and risk management.

## Access to resources

With the ability and obligation to control access, comes the opportunity for income for those who wish to share the resources

Example –

Walks, trails, bird watching, guided talks, mountain bike trails, horse riding, game viewing, recreation and tourism accommodation.

## How do we make it happen? The way forward.

### Outline

- \* A shared vision
- \* Build consensus in small groups
- \* Elect representative for those areas
- \* Have a working team to shape implementation
- \* Check in often



A vision statement received as input from landowners was suggested.



## VISION

Establish a  
**FUNCTIONAL, AUTONOMOUS, SUSTAINABLE**  
reserve, where the land and all its  
ecological systems are conserved and  
promoted as a long-term nature sanctuary



## Create value

Security is dealt with in a unified and comprehensive manner  
A meaningful turnaround in crime will improve land value and quality of life  
A outer perimeter game fence and game patrols can help  
Access control is a requirement  
Suitable use and access can be "eyes and ears" reporting problems  
Appropriate game well managed can be an asset  
(poorly managed, a liability which impacts ALL negatively)

## Next steps

At the meetings the proposal was accepted to have a small working group with area representatives.

This "Steering Group" would be responsible for building consensus around vision, goals and implementation. They would work as representatives in smaller geographically cohesive areas, meeting landowners face to face, and guiding us through the process for proclamation of Nature Reserve.

The invitation to join remains open. The members elected at the meetings include:

- Glyn French and Peter Nagel (West of the R512)
- Wessel Wessels (Vlakfontein)
- Julia Henry assisted by Louise Erasmus (Doornrandje)
- Carl Pellisier (Roodekrans)
- Duncan Stork (Hennopsrivier)
- Derrik Flynn (south), Bob and Christine Garbett (north) assisted by Fransa Cole (Oori)

Mercia will convene the first meeting with the Steering Group as soon as possible. The momentum on the project is to be maintained.