



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

Ref: 11/4/1/2/11

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Tuesday, 5 May 2020 (at 13:00), Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Members

Democratic Alliance

Baartman, DM
Maseko, LM
Van der Westhuizen, AP (Chairperson)

African National Congress

Marran, P (ANC)
Smith, D (Additional Member)

GOOD

Herron, BN

Freedom Front Plus

Marais, PJ (Additional Member)

Apologies

Mr A Bredell: Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
Dr R Omar: Chief Executive Officer - CapeNature
Mr P van Zyl: Head of Department – Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

The following persons were in attendance:

CapeNature

Dr E Baard: Executive Director –Conservation Operations

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Mr A Mohammed: Chief Director - Environmental Governance, Policy Coordination & Planning

Ms M Laros: Director - Biodiversity and Coastal Management

Mr A Gafoor: Director - Strategic and Operational Support

Media

Ms P Kotze: Reuters International

Ms W Meyer: Network24

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the Members of the Committee, Dr Baard from CapeNature, the Departmental officials and the members of the media.

The Chairperson explained the meeting procedure for video conferencing as well as the format that the meeting would follow.

2. Briefing by CapeNature on the current state of affairs at the nature reserves and the impact of the national lockdown on its activities and finances

CapeNature provided the Committee with a briefing on its conservation operations during the national lockdown with specific reference to ecological management, fire management and alien vegetation clearing, marine protected areas, compliance, infrastructure maintenance, special projects, protected area management planning, stakeholder engagement, the socio-economic impact and landscape service delivery outside of the protected areas. The impact on its financial position and ecotourism was also outlined as well as role clarification regarding its partners and stakeholders. Emphasis was placed on law enforcement and dealing with environmental transgressions. The short, medium and long term status of upgrading and maintenance projects in respect of tourism facilities were also provided to the Committee.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning reiterated and corroborated the information that was shared by CapeNature concerning invasive alien clearing and all other ecological infrastructure investment programmes in the Province.

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to CapeNature for its passion and commitment to ensuring a sustainable environment.

3. Resolutions/Actions

3.1 The Committee RESOLVED that it would undertake an oversight visit to the Milkwood Forest and Abalone Farm in Hermanus when circumstances allow it.

3.2 The Committee REQUESTED that CapeNature provides it with:

3.2.1 The Memorandum of Understanding between itself and the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in respect of marine protected areas;

3.2.2 A list of special projects that will commence under the level four national lockdown regulations, including the dates when contractors resume work as well a list of these contractors;

- 3.2.3 Regular updates as the national lockdown levels are lowered with specific reference to activities that will be allowed to commence; and
 - 3.2.4 The process of applying for national resource management alien clearing funding from the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries as well as the process of sharing biodiversity stewardship information with private landowners, advising them on fire and alien invasive management.
- 3.3 The Committee RECOMMENDED that CapeNature, together with its stakeholders and partners, establish a panel as soon as possible to promote discussions on reviving ecotourism to its full capacity when the national lockdown is lifted.

4. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Minutes

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Minutes of 17 March 2020, which were considered and adopted.

5. Consideration and adoption Draft Committee Quarterly Report

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Quarterly Report (January – March 2020), which was considered and adopted.

6. Consideration and adoption of Draft Committee Annual Report

The Chairperson submitted the Draft Committee Annual Report for the 2019/2020 financial year, which was considered and adopted.

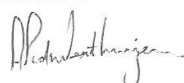
7. Committee Programme

The Chairperson informed the Committee that its Committee Programme was approved by the Programming Authority earlier on 5 May 2020. The Chairperson further informed the Committee that the Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy at the National Council of Provinces has requested joint meetings with all provinces in respect of the briefings by the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries on the National Forest Amendment Bill [B 11B – 2016] (s76) and the National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill [B 14D – 2017] (s76). These briefing will take place on 2 June 2020 and 9 June 2020 respectively. In addition, the Committee was informed that the Department of Agriculture and Casidra will brief it on their Strategic Plan on 26 May 2020.

Agreed to.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the Members, the officials from CapeNature and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning as well as the officials from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for their contributions to the success of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 15:15.



MR AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MPP
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Date:19 May 2020.....