

# Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Namibian Invasive Alien Species Working Group

29 May 2023 at 14h00

NUST Hotel School, Beethoven Street, Windhoek

## Participants

MEFT – Forestry: Esmeralda Strauss (Chairperson)

MEFT – NBRI: David Aiyambo, Rosalia Tshikesho, Quanita Daniels, Jerome Boys

MEFT – DEA: Nicco Masule

MEFT – Permit Office: Riaan Oberholzer

MAWLR – Plant Health (NPPO): Mwadhina Nangolo

NUST: Shirley Bethune, Vera de Cauwer

NYC – Phillipus Ndaphaakako

City of Windhoek: Martin Shikongo

NNF: Frances Chase (Deputy Chairperson)

Botanical Society: Barbara Curtis, Diana Thompson, Manda Steynberg, Ellen Gudde, Braam Harris

Cactus Clean up: Gunhild Voigts, Aktofel Elago, Theodor Shiyukifeni

NCE: Chris Brown (Secretary)

Urban Eden: Manuel Laudien

Private: Christelle Tromp, Stephen Carr, Herta Kolberg, Penelope Brown

Invited Guest: Dr Guy Preston

Agenda item	Actions
<p><b>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Esmeralda Strauss, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to this 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Namibian Invasive Alien Species Working Group (NIASWG). A special welcome was extended to Dr Guy Preston, Retired Deputy Director General for Environmental Programmes in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in South Africa.</p> <p><b>2. Attendance and Apologies</b> The above listed participants were present.</p> <p><b>3. Adoption of Agenda</b> The Agenda was adopted.</p> <p><b>4. Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> NIAWWG Meeting of 27 February 2023</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>a. Corrections</b> The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the Meeting with no corrections.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>b. Matters arising</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. <u>Collaborate with Phytosanitary Unit in MAWLR</u> ES contacted the Phytosanitary Unit, explained the objectives of the NIASWG, and extended an invitation to this meeting: Mwadhina Nangolo is here.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. <u>Alien plant lists – Safe List and No-go List</u></p>	

HK discussed the challenges of the No-go List – does it refer to species already a problem in the country, or species of potential risk not yet in country? After discussion it was agreed that the list should include all the alien species in country that are already a problem PLUS those alien species in country that may potentially be a significant risk PLUS species not yet in country that may be a risk based on international experience. This No-go List will be shared, explained and discussed with the Phytosanitary Unit in MEFT and Permit Office in MEFT.

It was further agreed that a Safe List was not necessary. The onus is on the importer of a new species into Namibia to apply for an Environmental Clearance Certificate, which in turn requires an EIA with public consultation. If the species is on the No-go List then the proponent should be informed that there is no point in applying – his application will be automatically rejected. This process needs to be explained to the Office of the Environmental Commissioner.

iii. Expand invasive alien plants on EIS

After due consideration it was agreed that only the most high-risk species should be included on the EIS. This would mean that a very few additional species be added.

iv. Set up Core Group and Broader Network

This aspects requires a bit more consideration and should be done after a few more Working Group meetings, so see who (organisations and individuals) are most needed on the core group. This may change over time depending on evolving priorities.

v. Set up Subcommittees

The following subcommittees were agreed:

- List Group (Herta to invite participants)
- Monitoring and research (Shirley, Vera + others)
- Information & outreach (develop a strategy – Frances, David, Gunhild, Barbara +)
- Legislation (Chris +)

vi. Link WG, EIS & Cons Nam websites to MEFT site

ES informed the MEFT's web site developers about making the links.

vii. Whk site visit

A site visit was led by GV with ES and FC to invasive alien plant sites around the City of Windhoek and they discussed options and future plans.

viii. Inform MEFT Permit Office re Eco Green

ES shared the expert opinion from the Working Group with the Permit Office. EIA should be done according to the EMA.

ix. Subcommittee to support Phytosanitary Unit, MEFT Permit Office and other regulators

The No-go List will be shared and discussed with the Phytosanitary Unit in MAWLR and MEFT Permit Office, and a list of experts will be provided for consultation as needed.

x. Integrate NIASWG with NBSAPs, CBD & SDGs

Information shares to ensure all are aware and work together.

- xi. Legislation on invasive aliens  
Emilia Nanyeni has been contracted to carry out the ToR approved by this Working Group on the legislation on invasive aliens. Report back at next meeting.
- xii. Link to RSA's Working for Water  
Presentation by Dr Guy Preston, active participation in this meeting, shared contacts and publications.

**c. Topics for discussion**

- a. Establishing key working groups  
Discussed above
- b. Position paper on importing and selling invasive aliens:
  - i. Nurseries  
Should also address landscapers, supermarkets, and building suppliers that sell plants.
  - ii. Street vendors and other informal trade  
Look at findings from legal study to see what options are available. There are fewer than 10 nurseries in Namibia – should be fairly easy with joint institutional Working Group member clout to get them to cooperate.
- c. Awareness, education and reference material on invasive aliens for border posts, municipal officials, MEFT staff, etc  
Working Gp to develop communication strategy / framework
- d. Developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for priority invasive alien species  
Develop a SOP for one species to serve as a template. Discuss and agree, then roll out for just the main high risk species.

- d. Proposed research project on *Opuntia stricta* in Zambezi region**  
Linked to Shirley and Vera.

**e. Any other business**

- a. Farmers encouraged to plant spineless prickly pears for drought fodder.  
Advertised in media potential threat, nutritional value low. We need to engage.
- b. ORASECOM  
Looking for a consultant to work on economic opportunities around prosopis management in southern Namibia with aim to eradicate.

**f. End of meeting**

The date of the next Working Group meeting will be communicated to members nearer the time.

There being no further matter, the Chairperson closed the meeting.