



**DRAFT MINUTES**

**7<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting**

Monday 04<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 16h00

NCE Boardroom

**Present:** Charles Loots – Chairperson (CL), Malan Lindeque (MLin), Morgan Hauptfleisch (MH), Steve Galloway(SG), Chris Brown (CB), Maxi Louis (ML), Stephan Bezuidenhout (SB)

**Apologies:** Frauke Kreitz (FK),

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Action Points</b>
<b>1. Welcome by Chairman</b>	Chairperson welcomed all present		
<b>2. Attendance / Apologies</b>	Frauke Kreitz	Quorum present	
<b>3. Approval of Agenda</b>	Request from Zimbabwe- New York Times magazine (Maxi Louis)	Agenda adopted	
<b>4. Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting 4.1 Correctness</b>	No corrections	Minutes approved	

<b>5.1 Eight Programme Areas</b>	<b>1. Membership support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Member Applications</li> <li>• Aircraft</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Membership currently stands at 55</li> <li>➤ 1 application submitted for discussion and approval</li> <li>➤ 1 full member application (Desert Lion Research Trust) accepted and tabled</li> </ul> <p>The use of the aircraft is a success and used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Seal Surveys</li> <li>➤ Wetland Surveys</li> <li>➤ Transporting of an injured cheetah</li> </ul> <p>MET, together with the assistance of Conrad Brain (pilot), to use the aircraft over the festive season in the north of Namibia for law enforcement purposes.</p>	<b>CB to approach Chamber of Mines to become associate members</b>
	<b>2. National facilitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental strategy - Mining Sector Workshop</li> <li>• Plastics Campaign</li> </ul>	<p>The 3-year National Environmental Strategy Plan was approved by the council. The next phase will include developing a 'Best Practice Guide.' The intention is to make this a private-public-NGO initiative inclusive of MME and MET.</p> <p>Meeting was held with Recycling Forum of Namibia members to discuss how industry could become more committed to managing single-use plastics (bags, drinks bottles, fast food containers and utensils). Intention is not to ban plastic bags and drinks bottles, but to introduce mechanisms to reduce and prevent them littering the environment.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carnivore Red Data assessment</li>   <li>• State of Environment workshop (MET, SDAC, NCE)</li>   <li>• Biocontrol of Cactus Species</li>   <li>• Cape Vulture Introduction Programme</li> </ul>	<p>The workshop took place on 08 to 10 November 2017, at the Otjikoto Environmental Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This was a constructive and productive meeting</li> <li>➤ Addressing carnivore issues is currently a focal area for NCE funding support</li> <li>➤ A group of carnivore specialists and team leaders were appointed for each species account. An overall editor, and a mapping (data) specialist were appointed for historic and current distribution maps.</li> <li>➤ A draft Red Data book will be ready in May</li> <li>➤ A similar workshop on antelopes could be done if there is enough technical support.</li> </ul> <p>A meeting will be scheduled for early 2018, and organizations like the UN will also be included.</p> <p>Namibia is experiencing an explosion in invasive alien plants. Some of the most aggressive and threatening are various cactus species which have caused billions of dollars of damage in some countries (e.g. the more arid parts of Australia and RSA). The NCE, together with the Botanical Society, MET, City of Windhoek and the BioControl Unit at Rhodes University will do a survey and draft a National Action Plan.</p> <p>In Namibia, the Cape Vulture is extinct as a breeding species, in the Waterberg area, due to <i>inter alia</i> bush-encroachment and poisoning, in the Namib (in the 1960s) due to poisoning, direct persecution and decline in wildlife.</p>	
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	<p>3. <b>Advocacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information of the EIA process: compilation and dissemination</li>   <li>• Collaboration with Chinese Embassy</li>   <li>• Pangolin posters and cards on wildlife crimes</li> </ul>	<p>A plan is being developed to bring captive birds from RSA to Namibia, for a 'Breeding and Release' Programme. The first release site could be Rotstock on the edge of the central Namib. Waterberg would be the next site.</p> <p>It is evident that the demand for a EIA process guide is high. Peter Tarr has been approached to draft this guide.</p> <p>Peter advised the NCE that this should be put on hold for the next 5-6 months as current Act and Regulations (EIA and SEA) are being revised. Once these are done, then the Info guide will be prepared.</p> <p>The Chinese Embassy approached SRT, to fund the building of an Environmental Education Centre. CB suggested that this would be a good initiative with the use of bi- lateral agreements. This can be viewed as, a positive contribution for the damage done by Chinese nationals to the Namibian environment.</p> <p>Under the supervision of MET and the Namibian Police, 18 Arrests have been made since the distribution of the posters and cards, and the material have not even been fully distributed.</p> <p>A protocol was developed on how to deal with live pangolins for rehabilitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The live pangolins first go for Vet checkup</li> <li>➤ Then held for rehydration and feeding</li> <li>➤ Then moved to safe areas in suitable habitat and released</li> </ul>	<p><b>CB to discuss with wildlife crime group what other uses posters and cards could be developed to assist their work.</b></p>
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	<p>4. <b>Mentorship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interns</li> <li>• Bursary Trust Deed and new bursaries</li> </ul>	<p>There is currently little knowledge on the status and population density of pangolins in different regions of Namibia. Similarly, home ranges and use of habitats are poorly understood. Would be a good Master's study/ research project.</p> <p>New interns to start in 2018</p> <p>N\$250,000 from the project grants fund, will be used for funding bursaries.</p> <p>Wildcat in the United States of America are also in the process of raising funds for Namibian students. A proposal was submitted to Mr. Rodger Schlickeisen for about N\$700,000 over 2 years.</p> <p>The criteria used for selecting the seven successful applicants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Study course</li> <li>➤ Past academic performance</li> <li>➤ Financial needs</li> <li>➤ Motivation and potential</li> <li>➤ University</li> </ul> <p>The successful applicants are all studying at either NUST, UNAM, Stellenbosch or Rhodes University.</p> <p>The NCE set a cap of N\$50,000, hence no student will get funding above this amount.</p> <p>The second set of successful applicants will be tabled within the next 2 weeks, depending on the outcome of the USA funds.</p>	
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	<p>5. <b>Environmental policy research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban development/ environment</li>   <li>• Rural - Urban</li> </ul>	<p>The successful applicants are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ From previously disadvantaged backgrounds except for one student</li> <li>➤ More than 50% of the students are female</li> <li>➤ All post-graduates at Hons and Masters levels</li> </ul> <p>A suggestion was made to provide funding for NUST students doing specific research projects. This will be explored in 2018.</p> <p>The first selection process was done internally but, the Bursary Trust makes provision for a Committee, that will in future be responsible for awarding bursaries.</p> <p>A small book on “Informal settlements in Namibia: their nature and growth” was published and launched by Development Workshop Namibia &amp; NCE in November and the Namibian Journal of Environment accepted a paper on this subject. The focusing is now on implementing some of the recommendations (working with the Oshakati Town Council and funding organisations), looking at energy and sanitation solutions, and then rolling out the initiative to other towns. An energy survey was carried out in a number of informal settlement areas around Windhoek.</p> <p>The urban informal settlement is closely linked to the rural economy. The drivers of urban migration are poorly understood. This has led to a discussion around rural-urban economies and the development of a discussion paper by the Environmental Policy Research Forum. The next step is to turn this into a project proposal.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodlands</li> </ul> <p>6. <b>Environmental information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• App</li> <li>• EIS Journal</li> </ul> <p>7. <b>Fund raising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Funding</li> </ul> <p>8. <b>Grant making</b></p>	<p>CB drafted a letter to the Office of the President with the recommendation, in the interests of both operational and economic efficiency, that the Freshwater Inland Fisheries Division, the Forestry Directorate, the Natural History section of the National Museum and the National Botanical Research Institute be moved into the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, to better serve the nation and achieve constitutional and development planning objectives.</p> <p>The EIS App is up and running</p> <p>The Namibian Journal of Environment launch is scheduled for 07 December 2017</p> <p>An 'off-set' policy has been accepted by the members of the Chamber of Mines, including the concept that investments should be directed mainly to non-mining regions of the country. In 2018 the CoM will focus on two off-set projects, but thereafter the idea is that each mining company allocated 10% of the CSI to a joint off-set fund. In this context, off-sets are interpreted as investments that support sustainable development initiatives that are aligned with Namibia's development priorities as per Harambee, NDPs &amp; V2030.</p> <p>Bulk Mining Explosives' (BME) CSR will contribute to the NCE, starting December 2017 at +- N\$ 8,000 per month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 10 Applications were received</li> <li>➤ Applications are being assessed and reviewed</li> </ul>	<p><b>CL to contact sponsors that have not yet made contributions.</b></p>
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<b>6. Finances</b>  <b>6.1 Financial report</b>	<b>Financial Report 01 July 2017 to 30 November 2017 (draft)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Based on the 5-month forecast, the NCE is under budget</li> <li>➤ Grants were presented separate from the NCE funds</li> <li>➤ Financial reports accepted</li> </ul>	
<b>7. Any other business</b>	Request from Zimbabwe	<p>ML explained that US Conservation Forces, support Zimbabwe in terms of sustainable use and benefits to communities.</p> <p>Zimbabwe requested that Namibia be used for writing articles to the New York Times, instead of the UN. The articles do not have to be based on Zimbabwe but any other African country and parts.</p> <p>The timing is questionable, and caution should be exercised however, it can be explored</p>	<b>NCE to explore relevant persons that can write articles to the New York Times</b>
<b>8. Next meeting</b>		Next Meeting - To be announced in January 2018	

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**C Loots**  
Chairperson

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**C Brown**  
Chief Executive Officer