

**Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the
Namibian Invasive Alien Species Working Group Meeting**

Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 10h30 for 11h00

The Barn, 12 Acacia Street, Windhoek

Participants

MEFT – Forestry: Esmeralda Strauss (Chairperson)
 MEFT – NBRI: Rosalia Tshikesho, Quanita Daniels, David Aiyambo
 National Museum of Namibia – Nanguai Karuaera
 NUST: Vera de Cauwer, Prof Habauka Kwaambwa
 NNF: Frances Chase (Deputy Chairperson)
 Botanical Society: Diana Thompson, Ellen Gudde, Barbara Curtis
 NCE: Chris Brown (Secretary)
 Namibia Bird Club: Holger Kolberg
 Private: Christelle Tromp, Herta Kolberg, Steve Carr
 Farmer: Siegfried Byrne; Michael Seelig, Elmar Burger

Apologies

Shirley Bethune, Malan Lindeque, Coleen Manheimer, Francois Becker, Martin Shilongo, Riaan Oberholzer

Agenda item	Actions
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Chairperson Esmeralda Strauss welcomed everyone to this 4th meeting of the Invasive Alien Species Working Group (NIASWG).</p>	
<p>2. Attendance and apologies</p> <p>The attendance list and apologies are shown above. The attendees briefly introduced themselves.</p>	
<p>3. Adoption of the Agenda</p> <p>The meeting was informed of two changes to the Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) points 8.d. and 8.e. were postponed to a future meeting. (ii) An additional point under Any other business was added, being on terminology used for invasive alien species. <p>The Agenda was then adopted.</p>	
<p>4. Minutes of the 3rd NIASWG meeting of 6 December 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Correctness <p>Spelling of Kalkfeld and grammar in pt 4.b.(ii) were corrected, and final Minutes posted on the NIASWG website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Matters arising <p>All matters arising had been incorporated into the Agenda.</p>	Secretary

<p>5. Committee report backs</p> <p>a. <u>List Committee</u> List of Members, strategy and “no-go” plant list were distributed ahead of the meeting. It was decided that the List and Research Committees should meet to review the lists and info therein.</p> <p>A list of Appropriate indigenous trees and shrubs for gardens, towns, schools, etc. was prepared, circulated and placed on the WG website.</p> <p>b. <u>Monitoring and Research Committee</u> List of Members and strategy were distributed. The strategy is still open for input.</p> <p>c. <u>Communications Committee</u> A chairperson has not been found for this Committee. David Aiyambo and Barbara Curtis kindly volunteered to serve as co-chairs.</p> <p>Skeleton draft strategy has been initiated. Co-chairs to take over and finalise the draft, and create a committee membership. The following suggestions from the last meeting are carried over:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Awareness and education materials for border posts, local authorities, MAWLR, MEFT, EIA practitioners, etc. ii. Concise position paper on importing and selling invasive alien species. iii. NBRI to consider adding a component on invasive alien species to their guided tours of the Botanical Garden. <p>d. <u>Legislation Committee</u> List of Members and strategy were circulated. The strategy is still open for suggestions.</p> <p>The review report on legislation on invasive alien species in Namibia was finalised, circulated and uploaded to the WG website.</p> <p>A meeting will be set up with the Director of Forestry and the Environmental Commissioner to discuss the way forward to develop a set of stand-alone Regulations on invasive alien organisms in Namibia, under the Environmental Management Act.</p>	<p>Herta & Vera to organise meeting in July to finalise lists & give feedback at next WG meeting.</p> <p>All to provide input on monitoring & research strategy to Vera.</p> <p>David and Barbara to serve as Communications Committee co-chairs, provide list of Members and finalise the draft strategy.</p> <p>All to provide input on legislation strategy to Chris.</p> <p>Chris to prepare summary of legislation review recommendations for Director of Forestry and Environmental Commissioner. Esmeralda to set up meeting.</p>
<p>6. Forestry nurseries</p> <p>The “no-go” list will serve as the forestry nursery list – and indeed for other nurseries and for everyone. In the meantime, a list of known no-go species currently held by forestry nurseries will be shared with the nursery staff with the instruction to destroy these specimens. There is no problem with</p>	<p>Esmeralda</p>

<p>Forestry nurseries propagating and selling most exotic common fruit trees, except for guava in the northern regions along perennial river systems.</p>	
<p>7. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</p> <p>The first template SOP was prepared using <i>Opuntia stricta</i> as the example. The template was accepted with some minor suggestions. The revised SOP is circulated with these Minutes. Also attached is a list of the 18 most problematic invasive alien plant species that should have SOPs prepared. Please comment on this list. And please volunteers to prepare one or more SOPs – respond quickly to book your favourite (or most hated) invasive alien plants!</p> <p>The Organisational support within NBRI to manage invasive alien plants and support this WG received strong endorsement from the WG members and will be discussed within MEFT.</p>	<p>All to review list and respond to Chris.</p> <p>Volunteers to book your SOP species.</p> <p>Esmeralda</p>
<p>8. Other initiatives</p> <p>a. <u>NOPAL cactus</u> – proposed development (Nicole Maske, Manta Ventures). Power point presentation given – circulated with these Minutes. The “NOPAL cactus” is a spineless variety of <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>. Note that because of its widespread agricultural use, this species is not on our “no-go” list – and nor is it so listed in RSA and Australia. Normal EIA procedures should apply</p> <p>b. <u>Kalkfeld Farmers Union/NAU</u> – spineless <i>Opuntia</i> (Michael Seelig). Farmers have similar uses and intentions as per the NOPAL project, with strong emphasis on animal feed for drought conditions. Other species (e.g. Spek boom and local succulents) have not yet been found to deliver the benefits of <i>O. ficus-indica</i>. Again, as this is not on the “no-go” list, normal EIA procedures would apply.</p> <p>c. <u>DebMarine / NUST biodiesel pilot study</u> (Prof Habauka Kwaambwa)</p> <p>The implementation of the pilot study has gone out for expressions of interest. A desktop pre-selection of sites was completed. Site visits are now needed. MAWLR has suggested reducing pilot sites from 5 to 1 ha and reducing seed import to 1 kg. Letter of support for this initiative was requested from MEFT.</p> <p>d. <u>Rhodes University Centre for Biological Control</u> - Philip Ivey’s project “Protecting 30X30 Gains through Integrated Control of Prosopis and cactus invasions in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa”. A video was shown explaining the project. A power point pdf is circulated with these Minutes for those who did not attend the meeting. Esmeralda and Frances were endorsed to serve on the regional project “committee” and keep the WG informed. It was suggested that this project engage with the ORASECOM project on economic opportunities for Prosopis linked to its eradication – to enhance synergies and avoid duplication.</p>	
<p>9. Any other business</p> <p>a. Terms used in invasive alien communications and literature. This was raised in correspondence by Malan Lindeque and emphasised</p>	<p>Herta</p>

<p>by Herta. It was agreed that she will do a short presentation at the next WG meeting to define the terms and explain their application.</p> <p>b. The 2024 Southern African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA) Conference will be held in Windhoek in October – the first such outside of SA. Colleagues are encouraged to register, participate and consider submitting a paper – including on the national work of this WG. Information circulated with these Minutes.</p>	
<p>10. Closing and date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 09h00-13h00 on Wednesday 21 August 2024</p> <p>There being no further matters, the Chairperson thanked all participants and closed the meeting at 13h55.</p>	<p>All to diarise</p>