

**Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the  
Namibian Invasive Alien Species Working Group Meeting**

**Wednesday 27 March 2025 at 14h15**

**The Village Opera House, 18 Liliencron Street, Windhoek**

**Participants**

MET – NBRI: Rosalia Tshikesho, David Aiyambo  
 MET – Scientific Services, Permit Office: Riaan Oberholzer  
 MAWFLR – DWA: Tobias Linus  
 NUST: Vera de Cauwer  
 NNF: Frances Chase (Deputy Chairperson)  
 Botanical Society: Diana Thompson  
 Cactus Clean-up: Gunhild Voigts, Aktofel Elago  
 NCE: Chris Brown (Secretary)  
 Namibia Bird Club: Holger Kolberg  
 Private: Christelle Tromp, Herta Kolberg, Fynn Corry, Malan Lindeque

**Apologies**

Esmeralda Strauss, Barbara Curtis, Shirley Bethune, Coleen Manheimer, Francois Becker, Sonjia Meier, Prof H Kwaambwa, Siegfried Byrne

| <b>Agenda item</b>  | <b>Actions</b> |
|---|----------------|
| <p><b>1. Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chairperson, Esmeralda Strauss, was unable to attend because of a last-minute priority within MET. The Deputy Chairperson, Frances Chase, took the chair. She welcomed everyone to this 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Invasive Alien Species Working Group (NIASWG).</p>  |                |
| <p><b>2. Attendance and apologies</b></p> <p>The attendance list and apologies are shown above. The attendees briefly introduced themselves.</p>  |                |
| <p><b>3. Adoption of the Agenda</b></p> <p>The meeting was informed of the following changes to the Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Points 8 and 5a will be handled together in that order by Herta.</li> <li>(ii) Point 9a will be postponed to a later date.</li> <li>(iii) Point 9c was added – presentation on <i>Prosopis</i> project under ORASECOM by Tobias</li> <li>(iv) Additional points under Any Other Business were:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Feedback on cochineal control</li> <li>b. NOPAL cactus project</li> <li>c. Cactus Clean-up – succession planning</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |                |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Could be a role for Namibian Youth Chamber of Environment (NYCE) via Webinars and outreach work – see <a href="https://youth.conservationnamibia.com/">https://youth.conservationnamibia.com/</a></p> <p>d. <u>Legislation Committee</u><br/> A summary of the legislative review was prepared and presented to Mr Timo Mufeti, Environmental Commissioner (EC), by Chris and Esmeralda. It was suggested that: (i) a single piece of legislation be drafted to address all aspects of invasive alien species control and management in Namibia, (ii) that this be in the form of Regulations under the Environmental Management Act (EMA), (iii) that a “docking station” for these Regulations be created in the EMA which is currently being finalised, (iii) that the NIASWG be given the mandate to prepare these draft Regulations, and (iv) that MET then take them forward for finalisation and promulgation. The EC was fully supportive of all these suggestions and thanked the NIASWG for their work and being proactive on this issue.<br/> It was agreed that Chris prepares a first draft of the Regulations for review.</p> <p>Need to check that the draft Forestry Strategy incorporates control and management of invasive alien species.</p> | <p>Chris to prepare first draft of the Regulations</p> <p>Vera to check Forestry Strategy</p> |
| <p><b>6. Forestry nurseries</b></p> <p>Instructions have gone out to all Forestry nurseries that they may no longer propagate or sell invasive alien plants.</p> <p>This also applies to municipal and private nurseries, garden and landscape services and roadside vendors. This needs to be captured in the Communications Strategy and in the new Regulations.</p>  | <p>All members to check when they visit nurseries.</p>  |
| <p><b>7. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</b></p> <p>Further attention needed from members to review the core list of priority species for which SOPs need to be developed (see attached).</p> <p>If there are no further comments on the template SOP for <i>Opuntia stricta</i> (attached), then volunteers are needed to prepare SOPs for other species on the priority list. But do not include the section on Institutional arrangements, as this section will form the basis of the ToR / job description of an Invasive Alien Officer to hopefully be appointed in NBRI (see point 9b).</p>  | <p>All to review list and respond to Chris.</p> <p>Volunteers to prepare SOPs.</p>            |
| <p><b>8. Terms used in invasive alien species communications and literature</b></p> <p>Herta gave a presentation on the range of terms used (attached). This generated some discussion, including on the ecological versus “political” meaning of endemics, the important issue of endemic and alien subspecies, which is largely overlooked, and range extensions of species that have not been physically moved by human intervention, but where habitats have been significantly altered, allowing for “natural” colonization (thus, in a sense, human driven). Further comments welcome.</p>  | <p>All to review presentation.</p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>9. Other initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Paulownia (Kiri) initiative</u> – postponed.</li> <li>b. <u>Possible funding from UNDP for invasive alien activities</u> – under discussion between Dept of Forestry and UNDP. If successful, part of the funding will be used to (a) appoint an “Invasive Alien Officer” part of full time, in NBRI, (b) to implement the SOPs, and (c) to support the work of this working group.</li> <li>c. <u>Prosopis management in Orange River basin through ORASECOM programme</u> – comprehensive progress report provided by Tobias Linus from Dept of Water Affairs. Copy will be circulated separately. All comments welcome.</li> </ul> | <p>Esmeralda to keep members updated.</p> |
| <p><b>10. Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Feedback on effectiveness of cochineal control</li> <li>b. Feedback on NOPAL cactus project</li> <li>c. Future of the Cactus Clean-up group and initiative – needs a succession plan.</li> <li>d. Role of this Working Group in critically assessing use of potentially invasive species in development projects.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting ran out of time and did not address any of the items under AOB. Carry over to next meeting.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>11. Closing and date of next meeting</b></p> <p>The meeting was closed at 17h15.</p> <p>No date set for the next meeting. Members will be notified once date has been set.</p> <p>There being no further matters, the Chairperson thanked all participants, and the participants thanked the acting Chairperson for stepping in at short notice.</p>  |   |