



Appendix 3: Detailed Community Concerns and Responses from Provincial Protected Area Management Authorities

Each province provided a detailed list of their most pressing concerns regarding People and Parks Programmes in their provinces. Following the presentations by community representatives from each province, CEO's of provincial protected area management authorities responded to the communities. Below is a detailed summary of the concerns and responses presented by each province.

1. Western Cape

Community Concerns
• There is no track record of what is happening.
• Communities project initiatives often remain ideas because of lack of funding.
• The land reform process is very slow.
• Job creation projects are needed for communities to sustain themselves.
• Communities are losing faith and hope in Government.
• There is no stipend for volunteers.
• Economic development is poor with no reality and not practical to the PD.
• All government departments must show commitment to community development especially SALGA.
• Little progress has been made with people and parks programme nationally.
• Communities are not yet involved in the management committees of the nature reserves. These committee are largely white dominated, e.g. Protected Areas Advisory Committee.
• There is a lack of feedback from the Government to the communities regarding people and parks issues.

CEO Response
<p>Lucille Meyer, CEO CapeNature</p> <p>The CEO of CapeNature noted the concerns raised by the communities. She raised her concern regarding the seriousness of the issues, and committed to continue to work towards addressing such concerns.</p> <p>In particular, Ms Meyer noted the importance of keeping the steering committee</p>



active in the province, and providing support for this process. She noted that the province is currently unable to afford stipends for volunteers, but raised it as an issue she wishes to pursue nationally, in hope that the broader conservation community can find support for all community volunteers.

Ms Meyer also noted the following: over 1000 jobs have already been created by Cape Nature, which is good progress. She noted that further employment opportunities were needed, but that progress already made must be acknowledged.

“I have listened very carefully, and some of the issues are real issues. I think we have done well in the province to set up an active steering committee. One elected after Mafikeng, and another is elected. There is a lot more support that we can offer to the steering committee.”

In closing, Ms Meyer called for protected area management authorities and communities to sit together and talk openly about concerns.

2. KwaZulu Natal

Community Concerns

- Families were to receive R10 000 compensation as part of a land settlement agreement. This issue has not been resolved and people need answers.
- Communities with claims are still waiting for title deeds.
- Co-management arrangements must be communicated to all provinces.
- We need the report of the Mafikeng Conference.
- People are failing to respect the People and Parks Programmes because empty promises are being made by Honourable members.
- Umfolozi Hluthuwe Park wrote a letter to the Minister of Rural Development but he has not ever responded.
- Settlement development grants are not available.
- Reminder: we met the Deputy Minister at Mafikeng!

CEO Response

Bandile Mkhize, CEO Ezemvelo KZN

The CEO of Ezemvelo KZN noted the concerns raised by the community and outlined that EKZN has worked hand in hand with communities in attempting to resolve these problems. Mr Mkhize noted that EKZN was involved in writing to the Minister of Land



Affairs (now Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform) and that they have done everything they can to support the communities in their engagements with land reform concerns.

Dr Mkhize expressed that EKZN is satisfied that they have resolved everything that is within their scope and that they will continue to assist communities in their activities with other relevant departments.

3. Mpumalanga

Community Concerns

- Land transfers are taking a long time to be implemented, particularly on state owned land.
- No land hand over has taken place since the incoming of the new Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform.
- Issuing of the title deeds does not happen at all after the signing of the transfer.
- Settlement grants are non-existent, years after transfers have been made.
- These delays in completing the restitution process have resulted in the mushrooming of concerned groups within communities because they become impatient.
- These delays in transferring land to new owners results in game killing and selling of game by fraudulent conservation officials.
- The current tenants of transferred lands become problematic to the new land owner. Why is the state reluctant to resolve these issues?
- New developments are coming up on the transferred lands without the knowledge and participation by the new land owner.
- MTPA is continuing to utilize private security companies on transferred land without any consultation and participation with the new land owners who are willing to offer such services.



CEO Response

Charles Ndabeni, CEO MPTA

CEO of Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency (MPTA), Charles Ndabeni, provided a detailed response including an outline of his vision for People and Parks Programmes in his province.

In particular, Mr Ndabeni referred to three key intervention areas, namely the creation of a holistic vision, the development of a plan and the allocation of sufficient resources. Mr Ndabeni noted the vision for conservation in Mpumalanga as being driven by the need to locate their existing conservation mandate within the context of rural development. Mr Ndabeni noted that while land reform issues are not within the scope of conservation authorities, they are directly relevant to people and parks and rural development concerns and thus must be engaged with proactively. Mr Ndabeni noted the development of a land resolution strategy within their social ecology team to enable them to engage further with these issues.

Mr Ndabeni further noted that MPTA prioritized five land claims for resolution in 2009-2010, four of which have settled. He noted an additional five claims have been prioritized for 2010-2011, and another seven for 2011-2012.

Mr Ndabeni emphasized the importance of their joint engagement with the regional land claims commissioner as being central to their strategy and their success and has enabled them to resolve 4 very difficult issues.

Mr Ndabeni also outlined the importance of ensuring communities are properly resourced to participate in co-management arrangements, and noted the provision of an office, employment opportunities and a Community Property Association (CPA) budget at Somgimvelo nature reserve as an example of the kinds of resources needed to support community initiatives. He also noted the need to compile a database of local service providers around each protected area to ensure the parks become an active part of local economic development.

Mr Ndabeni noted five agreements made with the CPA to ensure success:

- 1) They must support co-management arrangements,
- 2) There must be management protocols (cannot order reserve manager around),
- 3) There must be a leadership protocol – too many workshops and too little leadership – people must perform, people must account, or they are out.
- 4) Issues of SRPP – there must be co-ordination amongst communities, helped by MPTA to set up community advisory committee in each park.



5) No CPA member will mobilize investors. Creative investors can manipulate CPA structures to skew investment to suite them. All investment must come through formal structures.

Mr Ndabeni noted the successes at Mangyeleti Reserve, where a R4million agreement has been signed creating 600 permanent jobs. In this instance, the management authority is only responsible for park planning, administration and management with co-management structures taking responsibility for tourism procurement and other hospitality related services.

Mr Ndabeni concluded by noting that the CMC process is very critical. He noted that all issues are land related issues and a joint process with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is essential. He also noted that skills development needs to be pre-empted so that skilled staff are ready when you need them and training does not only start once projects are ready to operate.

4. Limpopo

Communities Concerns

- Communities not involved in decision-making processes – locally to nationally.
- Land claims processes are very slow.
- Communities are given the lands do not yet have title deeds.
- Post settlement grants are not available.
- A lack of transparency on the part of the government is a concern, especially in terms of the details financial settlements.
- Game management in the reserves does not involve communities.
- Community beneficiation in tourism is not meeting expectations.
- Tenants questions after land claim won by the displaced communities staying elsewhere without including current occupants/tenants.
- Suspected nepotism /interest commissioner in terms of prioritising land claims for finalisation.



CEO Response

Karambe Matibe, LEDET

Mr Matibe noted he was responding on behalf of the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism as well as the Limpopo Parks Board and the Limpopo regional land claims commission.

Regarding the lack of community participation in decision making processes, Mr Matibe explained that the province sat with their communities and tried their best to move forward in term of inclusive decision making processes. He noted the development of local forums, district forums, provincial forums in an attempt to facilitate the meaningful participation of land owners in decision making.

Mr Matibe agreed with communities that the land restitution process is slow, but noted this is because the process requires research and financial investigation which take time. He also noted the effects of community dynamics and conflicting land claims on slowing down processes.

With regard to title deeds, Mr Matibe announced that the province have now resolved 98% of vesting gaps in the province, with 98% of the land now being vested. He urged other provinces to follow suite.

With regard to post settlement grants Mr Matibe agreed that they are not available, ad noted it was due to lack of budget within the department to meet demands. He noted, however, that they will continue to look for funds to solve this problem.

Mr Matibe noted that despite these successes there are still capacity concerns within government structures, largely related to changes in staff. He committed to address this concern. He did not agree with communities that there is no transparency on behalf of the government, and noted that claimants are made aware of settlement processes.

With regard to co-management, Mr Matibe noted that there was room to do more, but also noted programmes to introduce game hunting in community reserves as an attempt to expand community involvement in game management.

In conclusion Mr Matibe noted the 50-50% profit share arrangement now in place in the province to improve community beneficiation from tourism activities. He also noted the introduction of tourism levies to park fees. He noted the province is doing their best to resolve issues and work with communities.



5. Northern Cape

Witsand Community Concerns

- Land restitution at Witsand has not been resolved.
- The commission promised that MEC of Conservation and Land Reform would visit us in order to resolve the Witsand issue but he has not.
- The people of Witsand (Claimants) want to be part of the forum of the management and also staff of Witsand and also seek for royalties.
- We are ready to engage government if they allow us to.
- The commission also promised that claimed land where there is no dispute government will solve those claims and then engage with disputes claims on a later stadium, but nothing came from that.
- The claimants of Witsand are willing to go into partnership with conservation on a percentage basis but cannot unfortunately wait forever for this to happen.
- The claimants are now considering occupying the land, even if it is a protection area. They expressed willingness to serve some jail term if government cannot come with a solution.
- Our patience is really at breaking point. 5 years ago we threatened to occupy this land but government is not taking us seriously.
- In order for government to work together with us they should really try and solve this matter now.
- We want to be involved in game harvesting and game that were there historically must be given back.
- We as the claimants of Witsand really want to have a say in the daily activities and management of this Witsand Conservation Area.

Vioolsdrift Grondies Community Concerns

- The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform must resolve the claims issues as soon as possible. The department must come to the communities inform and explain to them how far the land claims processes are.
- The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is hampering economic development. The community has already enrolled land for conservation purposes.
- Currently the Steikoft communal is managing the land. The community wants to register their own communal land in order to manage land themselves. The land claim must be resolved and speeded up because the unrest is getting too much.



CEO Response

Northern Cape representative was not mandated to provide an official response on any of the issues raised. The CEO was not present.

6. Free State

Community Concerns

- Title deeds delays
- Land disposal delays
- Registration of CPA
- Resources to hold meeting to hold meetings and attend national committee meetings

CEO Response

Mr Mathabula

“We have heard our communities and we need to communicate that as a department we are in continuous meetings with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to engage with issues from the communities. We wrote a memo through the cluster so that both departments are working from the same framework. It has been adopted by Exco.

On the issue of resources to attend meetings, etc. We will explore this issue within our department. But we request that the lack of resources in the province to address the concerns raised be tabled at MINTEC to explore funding for a national level.