
Facilitation Report: SARA0 and

SANPARKS Public Participation Process: Condensed Report

April 2018

PREPARED FOR:

Mr. Alice Pienaar Marais – SARA0

And Andre Spies - SANParks

DATED:

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PREPARED BY:

Christian F Gerhardt

NCC Environmental Services

T • 021 702 2884

E • info@ncc-group.co.za





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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was undertaken by South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) from which an Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) was compiled. Currently SARAO is still in the process of obtaining approval by the Department of Environmental Affairs for the IEMP. The SEA draft report was published by the Minister from Environmental Affairs for comment and once all comments have been incorporated and the report has been updated the Minister will consider the SEA for approval. The IEMP stipulates that SARAO should appoint a Land Management Authority to manage the environmental aspects of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) area. It is proposed that South African National Parks (SANParks) fulfils this management requirement.

A Park Management Plan must be drafted in terms of the legal requirements of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act for a National Park. In order to draft the Park Management Plan a public participation process is followed. As part of the public participation process a series of workshops were held in Williston, Brandvlei and Carnarvon the following items were addressed during the workshop:

- Concerns and questions from the community in reference to the proposed National Park.
- Future management suggestions for the National Park with regards to its desired state.
- Risk in terms of the proclamation of a National Park.
- Special features of the area which can make the National Park unique.

The items that were addressed during the workshops were included into this report. The report will be used by SANParks for objective setting which will then be included into the compilation of a Park Management Plan.

2 INTRODUCTION

A series of workshops were held between the 24th till the 26th of April 2018 in Williston, Brandvlei and Carnarvon which forms part of a larger public participation process for the drafting of a Park Management Plan for a proposed National Park. The drafting of a Park Management Plan is a legal requirement for all National Parks in South Africa. The workshop aimed to engage stakeholders to discuss key issues. The information sourced would be used to develop the Desired State for the park.

It was evident that some points of discussion that were raised during the workshop series were common throughout either two or all three workshops. These points were mostly raised as concerns by the workshop participants. Points that were raised were:

- Possible fence line specifications inadequacies with regards to predator control
- The possible increase of predators animals within the proposed National Park
- The impact on mortalities of production based sheep flocks due to the possible predator population growth.
- Economic impacts and implications due to higher flock loss.
- Job creation and economic upliftment of the surrounding communities
- Tourism possibilities that would benefit both SANParks and the local community

Some of the outcomes of the meetings were:

- A fence specifications meeting will be held with neighbouring farm owners
- A return meeting will be held at Carnarvon on request of the specific workshop
- Information of all workshops will be provided to SANParks for the objective setting regarding the desired state of the Park.

The points of discussions of each workshop conducted and stakeholder input during the workshop was summarised and then placed into a workshop report.

3 BACKGROUND AND GOAL OF WORKSHOPS

At the start of each workshop a Brief Background was provided by SARAo in terms of the history of the SKA, the current status and the reason for approaching SANParks as the Land Management Authority. The following description is a short summary of the background information provided during each workshop.

The National Development Plan (NDP) established in 2012 was aimed to promote long term strategic economic growth within the South African Economy. An important part of the NDP was the establishment of a National Infrastructure Plan (NIP) which Identified Specific Implemented Project (SIP). Due to the status of the SKA project as a Special Infrastructure Project (SIP) and the geographic size of the project area a Strategic Environmental Assessment (one of the tools available to undertake an environmental assessment) was conducted.

The CSIR was appointed to undertake the SEA and the outcome of the SEA was an Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) for the SKA Phase 1 project. The IEMP contain management outcomes and activities which need to be complied with to ensure appropriate environmental management of the area.

It is the intention to declare the SKA core area as a National Park in terms of the National Environmental Management (NEM): Protected Areas Act (Act No 57 of 2003). It's envisaged that SANParks will be appointed as the Land Management Authority by the National Research Foundation to manage the area in compliance with the requirements of the NEM: Protected Areas Act. SANParks will be responsible to develop a National Parks management plan which is a requirement for a National Park. Part of the Planning process is to involve the I&AP's in a public participation process to envisage the Parks desired state.

The planning process is a staged approach and the purpose of the planning process is to source and incorporate stakeholder input into a more technical planning process. However, this purpose is situated within a broader context of forming and sustaining relationships with the public so as to secure mutual understanding and ongoing support. The goal of the workshop series was to engage the stakeholders and I&AP's to participate in the initial planning stages of the Park Management Plan. The participation in the planning process was aimed at a set of discussion objectives which was introduced to the workshop as follows:

- The identification of challenges and risks by the local community
- The identification and discussion special features of the area
- The desired state of the proposed National Park.



4 CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS ON THE DESIRED STATE

During all three workshops the participants raised points on concerns and challenges they associate with the proclamation of the National Park. These concerns and challenges have certain management implication with regards to the desired state of the National Park and the management thereof. All the detailed comments and discussion summaries for each workshop can be referred to in attachment 1, 2 and 3 of this report.

In all 3 workshops there were challenges and concerns which were raised that indicated to specific desired state management implications. The top concerns raised with the desired state management implication are tabled in table 1 below.

Tabel 1: Top points of discussion

Points Raised	Desired Sate Management Implications
Communication: Concerns in terms of consistent communication was raised.	Ensuring regular, clear and accurate communications between the park management, SARAO and affected stakeholders.
Proclamation of the National Park: Participants indicated that they were not aware that a National Park will be proclaimed nor were they consulted if the communities views were favourable regarding a National Park	Conduct a public participation process during the National Park planning phase for the application of proclamation. To keep all parties involved informed throughout the process.
Fencing: Neighbouring property owner should be able to consult on fence specification for problem animal control	Constructing a fence in consultation with the local community, specifically neighbouring properties. Using local expertise to consult on the fence upgrade and construction within acceptable financial constraints. Assisting with fence patrols and small scale maintenance of the fence to control the movement of problem animals onto neighbouring farms.
Predator Control: Concerns were raised that problem animal numbers will rise dramatically in the National Park which will have an effect on sheep flock totals.	Introducing a research program to ascertain the population dynamics of meso-predators within the proposed National Park, as well as the impact of possible population density growth and shifts. To assist the neighbouring community with the management the impact of



	predation animals on stock production farms.
Production on Farms at Risk: Production of sheep will decrease due to lack of problem animal control.	<p>Introducing a research program to ascertain the population dynamics of predation animals on the proposed National Parks site.</p> <p>To assist the neighbouring community with the management the impact of predation animals on stock production farms.</p>
Corporate Social Investment (CSI)	<p>To become part of the local government dynamic specifically in terms of co-operative governance this relates to planning, operations, and auditing of Integrated Development.</p> <p>Initiate and manage science based education programs for the surrounding schools in the area.</p> <p>Initiate environmental education programs for the surrounding schools in the area.</p> <p>Considering tourist activities which are scheduled around the availability of time within the SKA program.</p>
Job Creation	<p>Use local community for the implementation of operational requirements within the proposed National Park.</p> <p>Design short, mid and long-term job creation opportunities within the proposed National Park.</p>
Tourism: Tourism was originally not considered due to radio silence. There is confusion in terms of tourism and if tourism will be allowed how it will be conducted.	<p>Providing community based projects for the benefit of the community on a short, medium and long-term basis.</p> <p>Considering tourist activities which is scheduled around the availability of time within the SKA program or activities that will not impact on the operations of the SKA radio telescope</p>

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5 SPECIAL FEATURES

Part of the workshop series hosted was to also get knowledge from the local community in terms of the specials features of the area which can make the proposed National Park a special area with regards to conservation.

Tabel 2: Specific features

Special Features of the Possible National Park	Detailed descriptions/Discussion points
Herb producing environment	A lot of the plants occurring within the area that has medicinal value
Charcoal factory	The alien clearing program proposed by the proposed National Park can lead to the production of charcoal which will have economic value for the local community if incorporated into the process or if SARAO and SANParks see value in such a process.
Old historic farmhouses and stone walls and Stone herding camps	<p>“Korbeel Huise” found within the proposed National Park and also on the outside on neighbouring farms (Korbeel huis tour possibility).</p> <p>A “Korbeel huis route” was proposed as a tourist route to see various houses in the area.</p> <p>Old graves and graveyards with heritage value, old historical farm building with heritage value and also old stone walls and herding camps.</p>
Rock art	The area is well known for its rock art
Prehistoric equipment	Areas have been identified by archaeologist where rock tools have been found.
Karoo Lamb	The Karoo lamb is well known as a cuisine that people love from all over the world.
Birding Paradise	Special birds that is unique to the area such as the sociable weavers and birds of prey.
Karoo Silence	The Karoo provides tourists with silence which is sought after by people who wants to get away “from it all”.



	The silence of the Karoo can be combined with a night sky experience.
Night Sky and open clear sky	Open night sky without any “city light” impacts which enhances viewing of Accommodation for tourists in the relevant towns and on farms during night sky tours.
People	The people of the area are unique to the area and will welcome tourists to show them the place that they love.
Beautiful Landscapes	Beautiful landscapes which changes from one region of the SKA to the next. Features such as rocky landscapes, rocky outcrops, koppies, flat open land, salt pans, grassy areas, shrubby areas, dry river beds, rolling hills.

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6 CONCLUSION/WAY FORWARD

A stand-alone report for the each workshop has been compiled in terms of the information received during the workshops. The condensed report will be compiled to reflect all the issues and comments discussed within in all the workshops. All of the information contained within the reports will be used to develop the desired state of the park as portrayed in the Management Plan. Furthermore the information with regards to special features, management challenges, and a desired state of the park will provide the planners with information to draw up high level objective in managing the National Park.

Once the plan has been drafted the draft will be made available to the public for comment. SANParks will schedule another round of public participation events once the plan has been made available in order to engage with the registered stakeholders in October of 2018.

PREPARED BY:



Christian Gerhardt

Workshop Facilitator – NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd

SANParks Planning Workshop

M • 072 261 0301

E • christiang@ncc-group.co.za



Attachment Nr 1: Comments Table from Williston Workshop held on the 24/4/2017

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SANParks Desired State Workshop: Williston			
Issue raised	Description	Discussion points clarified by SARAO or SANParks	Management Implication on Park Desired State
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stakeholders raised concerns that not all participants have been made aware of the workshop due to lack of communication. The stakeholders indicated that most farmers do not have access to email and that cell phone calls are also difficult due to remoteness and loss of signal. It was requested that messages be sent via WhatsApp for accessibility to farmers when they can receive the messages as soon as they are in range for signal. 	SARAO representatives indicated that communications have been done throughout within the legislative framework regarding the public participation process. And those records are kept for reference by SARAO.	Ensuring regular, consistent clear and honest communications between the park management, SARAO and affected stakeholders.
Proclamation of the National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stakeholders indicated that it was of concern that it seems that a National Park has already been decided upon by SARAO/SANParks and that there was not an consultative process regarding the communities view if a Park is welcomed or not. The I&AP parties indicated they had a negative feeling towards the proclamation of a Park and were not in acceptance of a National Park in the area. 	SARAO indicated that the decision to approach SANParks was based on recommendations contained in the draft IEMP, which was widely consulted by the CSIR and the DEA, which indicate that the land should be managed in an environmental sustainable manner.	To conduct a public participation process during the National Park planning phase for the proclamation.
Fencing	<p>The following questions and concerns were raise by the stakeholders regarding the boundary fence around the SARAO/SANParks area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ownership of the fence: I&AP's wanted to 	<p>Management of the park will be conducted by SANParks funded by SARAO based on the approved Park Management Plan</p> <p>SARAO indicated that a discussion with direct</p>	<p>Constructing a fence in consultation with the local community, specifically neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Using local expertise to consult on the</p>

	<p>know who will be the owners of the fence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the fence line: I & AP's wanted to know who will be responsible for the management of the fence between SARAO and direct neighbouring landowners. Concerns were raised around the sharing of management cost and that neighbouring farmers will also be held financially accountable for the maintenance and management of the border fence between SARAO them. • Fence specification: Concerns were raised around the type of fence that will be used for the proposed National Park and if the fence would be effective in keeping predators off neighbouring farmlands. 	<p>neighbouring landowners will be conducted during May in order to get input with regards to the fence and fence specifications.</p>	<p>fence line planning and construction.</p> <p>Assisting with the management and maintenance of the fence line to control the movement of problem animals onto neighbouring farms.</p>
<p>Time from vacating of farms till border control has been instated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant Farms and unmanaged borders: Timeframes between the current occupied farms vacating on the last 30th of June 2018 and establishing the SARAO/SANParks fence was raised as a concern by I&AP's. Specific concerns were raised in terms of flock security and predator control. "What is the immediate plan in terms of predator control from the 1st of July 2018?" • Flock loss of neighbouring farms as well as claims regarding loss due to the vacant farmland and lack of fencing was raised by as a concern. "Who will compensate us for the flock loss if there is a rise in flock loss from the 1st of July till the new fence line has been constructed?" 	<p>SARAO indicated that the fence line has not yet been constructed because construction could not yet happen while farms were still occupied.</p> <p>Planning has however been started on a fence and fence specifications in conjunction with SANParks. This proposed fence line will be discussed with neighbouring farmers during a formal discussion about the fence line.</p>	<p>Timeline for the construction of the fence line and completion date must be established and incorporated into a project managing program which will be available for the community.</p> <p>Constructing a fence in consultation with the local community, specifically neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Using local expertise to consult on the fence line planning and construction.</p> <p>Assisting with the management and maintenance of the fence line to control the movement of problem animals onto neighbouring farms.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Why has SARAO not started with the construction of the new fence, if they knew the farms would be vacated during June and that it would leave neighbouring farmers vulnerable?” 		
Predator Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queries were raised in terms of the type of animals that will be kept in the proposed National Park and if there would be any plans to import any large game or larger predators into the proposed National Park. The increase of problem animals on the vacated properties due to uncontrolled/unmanaged vacant areas would prove costly to farmers. The Security of neighbouring flocks was raised during the workshop and concerns were raised around the possible increase of predation animals once the National Park has been established. 	<p>SARAO and SANParks indicated that no new animals will be established on the SARAO property in the foreseeable future due to impact of drought and overgrazing that occurred. Park Management Plan will indicate a process to inform vegetation management and the reintroduction / supplement of animals that historically occurred here. It is not anticipated to establish large predators or big 5 game in the area.</p> <p>SARAO indicated that a predator/problem animal research program will be initiated and a control plan will then be implemented.</p>	<p>Introducing a research program to ascertain the population dynamics of meso-predators within the proposed National Park , as well as the impact of possible population density growth and shifts.</p> <p>To assist the neighbouring community with the management the impact of predation animals on stock production farms.</p>
Research in the Area has not been sufficient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research in the area has not been sufficient to indicate the effect of farming on the surrounding area and if farming has a negative effect at all. Research has not been sufficient in terms of problem animal control and the effect of predators on flock totals and weaning percentages on productive farms to show that farms are its own worst enemy. A conclusion that problem animals already exist and that the Park will not have an effect cannot be assumed. 	<p>SARAO indicated that a predator/problem animal research program will be initiated and a control plan will then be implemented accordingly</p>	<p>Introducing a research program to ascertain the population dynamics of predation animals within the proposed National Parks site, as well as the impact of possible population density growth and shifts.</p> <p>To assist the neighbouring community with the management of the impact of predation animals on stock production farms.</p>
Security of farmers living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The security of neighbouring farmers was raised as a concern. The large open area 	<p>More Information is needed form SARAO and SANParks.</p>	<p>SANParks should aim to work together with SAPS, neighbouring farmers and SKA</p>

<p>directly next to the Protected Area</p>	<p>and length of the border to control is viewed a difficult management task and it will increase the threat in terms of thoroughfare for people who can carry out farm attacks.</p>		<p>security to control unwanted thoroughfare in the proposed National Park.</p>
<p>Conservancy rather than a National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community raised its concern around the consulting process with regards to the decision of proclaiming a National Park without consent. "Nobody has asked us if we want a National Park in the area." The I&AP's also suggested that the area should be made a conservancy rather than a National Park, because they will have better buy-in in the area and there will be a chance for co-management. 	<p>The SANParks representative provided the workshop participants with the difference between a conservancy and a National Park.</p> <p>A conservancy is a registered (with the local Conservation Authority), voluntary association between land users/landowners who co-operatively wish to manage their natural resources in an environmentally friendly manner without necessarily changing the land-use of their properties.</p> <p>A National Protected Area is one property however is managed by an Organ of State.</p> <p>Due to the positioning of the SKA as one land owner and the IEMP's requirement for a Land Management Authority the proclamation of a National Park is the next logical step in managing the area in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Area Act.</p>	<p>SANParks should aim to work closely with neighbouring landowners to enhance conservation and land management knock on effects that will not just contribute to sound environmental practices in the Park and surrounding properties, but will contribute to sustainable development and farming in the surrounding area.</p>
<p>Sustainable Farming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community indicated that farming should be allowed to continue neighbouring farms in such a way that it is sustainable. That proposed National Park fence line is managed in such a way that predator impact is prevented or mitigated which will assist in sustainable farming practices. I&AP indicated that sheep flocks do not interfere with the radio telescope and 	<p>SARAO indicated that if livestock were allowed into the SARAO property then accountability and liability for stock loss would shift to the landowner who would be SARAO. SARAO acquired the land to mitigate that risk.</p>	<p>The proposed National Park will not support farming practices within the confines of the park.</p>

	<p>asked why farming cannot be allowed within the SARAO/SANParks Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A point was raised that if the goal is to have a National Park with animal and human movement in the confines of the radio telescope area why the option of “silent farming” could not be allowed. 		
Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delegates wanted to know if the area is proclaimed as a National Park if SARAO will be exempt from tax due to Co-operative governance. Will the tax burden now fall on the local community? 	<p>SARAO told the workshop participants that tax is currently still paid and this can be verified by the Municipality. SARAO would also look into paying a flat rate to the municipality rather than not paying any tax at all.</p>	To discuss
Thoroughfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The I&AP of the workshop queried if the planned area would allow any thoroughfare, because the size of the SARAO would increase travelling from one point to another if no thoroughfare was allowed. 	<p>SARAO indicated that consideration was given at thorough fare and that such thoroughfare would be done through control points. The use of electronic equipment during thoroughfare would be denied.</p>	<p>Entrance management of members of the public will be controlled by SAROA.</p> <p>Members of the public driving through the park will be managed in terms of the impact on the environment.</p> <p>“Rules of the Park” and commuting through the park must be provided to members of the public prior to entering the proposed National Park.</p>
Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the National Park contribute in terms of job creation? 	<p>SARAO indicated that training programs have been earmarked to train the people in the area in terms of needed job requirements and trades.</p> <p>SARAO indicated that there will be more work in the future and the work can be classed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The future construction of infrastructure within the SKA Operational maintenance 	<p>Use local community for the implementation of operational requirements within the proposed National Park.</p> <p>Design short, mid and long-term job creation opportunities within the proposed National Park.</p>

		<p>SARAO and SANParks indicated that there will be Park management programs that will need employment and that these requirements are being investigated</p>	
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Attachment Nr 2: Comments Table from Brandvlei Workshop: 25/4/2017





SANParks Desired State Workshop: Williston			
Points of Discussion	Description	Discussion points clarified by SARAO or SANParks	Management Implication on Park Desired State
Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the National Park contribute to job creation in the area? What program will be initiated by SANParks in order to support job creation? 	<p>SARAO indicated that training programs have been earmarked to train and develop people in the local community in terms of needed job requirements and trades.</p> <p>SARAO indicated that there will be more work in the future and the work can be classed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The future construction of infrastructure within the SKA • Operational maintenance <p>SARAO and SANParks indicated that there will be Park management programs that will need employment and that these requirements are being investigated</p>	Use the local community for the implementation of operational requirements within the National Park as far as is practicably possible.
Job limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be any limits in terms of age and physical capability with regards to job training and jobs that will be available? 	<p>SARAO indicated that all job specifications will be included in the tender documents which will place limitations and specific requirements in terms of training and job function.</p> <p>The SANParks contract will work in a similar way in which a tender will be posted once a job is required. The tender will have job descriptions and requirements.</p>	Provisions for fair tender processes in terms of jobs creation for the local community as far as practicably possible.
Fence and security of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be a fence around the National Park in order to keep dangerous animals 	SARAO clarified that the land owner of the area will be SARAO and that SANParks has been	Constructing a fence in consultation with the local community, specifically

community.	inside the Park? The community indicated that they are scared that large animal can escape and cause harm to people in the area.	<p>approach to manage the area as a National Park.</p> <p>SARAO indicated that a discussion with direct neighbouring landowners will be conducted during May in order to get input on the fence line and fence line specifications.</p>	<p>neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Using local expertise to consult on the fence line planning and construction within acceptable financial constraints.</p> <p>Assisting with the management and maintenance of the fence line to control the movement of problem animals onto neighbouring farms.</p>
Predator control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Park have any large predators such as lions which can pose a high risk to the community? 	<p>SARAO and SANParks indicated that no new animals will be established on the SARAO property in the foreseeable future due to impact of drought and overgrazing that occurred. Park Management Plan will indicate a process to inform vegetation management and the reintroduction / supplement of animals that historically occurred here. It is not anticipated to establish large predators or big 5 game in the area.</p> <p>SARAO indicated that a predator/problem animal research program will be initiated and a control plan will then be implemented.</p>	<p>Introducing a research program to ascertain the population dynamics of meso-predators within the proposed National Park , as well as the impact of possible population density growth and shifts.</p> <p>To assist the neighbouring community with the management the impact of predation animals on stock production farms.</p>
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be an advantage to the community if tourism is allowed in the Park. 	<p>The goal of the National Park is to help SARAO to protect and manage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio frequency integrity • And to manage environmental integrity as per the IEMP 	<p>Providing community based projects for the benefit of the community on short, medium and long-term.</p> <p>Considering tourist activities which is scheduled around the availability of time within the SKA program or activities that will not impact on the operations of the SKA radio telescope</p>

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<p>Ability to visit the Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wil the local community be able to visit the Park as well as the radio frequency telescope? 	<p>SARAO indicated that periodic tourism is considering periodic tourism around the availability of time within the SKA program or activities that will not impact on the operations of the SKA radio telescope.</p>	<p>Providing community based projects for the benefit of the community on short, medium and long-term.</p> <p>Considering tourist activities which is scheduled around the availability of time within the SKA program or activities that will not impact on the operations of the SKA radio telescope</p>
<p>People and Conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wil the community be informed and educated about the NationalPark? 	<p>SANParks indicated that a part of the organisations goal and initiatives within the local community is to drive community based environmental education programs for the local schools.</p>	<p>Initiate and manage science and environmental base education programs for schools of the surrounding area.</p>
<p>Naming the National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The naming of the National Park was part of a competition held at schools in the surrounding area. The poarticipants indicated that they would also like to contribute to the naming of the National Park. The following names were proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meerkat Nasionale Park ○ Meerkat Lepelblom Nasionale Park ○ Lepelblom Nasionale Park ○ Kareeberg Hoogland Nasionale Park ○ Kareeberg Hantam Hoogland Nasionale Park ○ KHH Nasionale Park (As ‘n afkorting van die vorige naam) 	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Conduct further public participation with regards to the naming of the National Park.</p>

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Attachment Nr 3 Comments Table from
Carnarvon Workshop:
26/4/2017





SANParks Desired State Workshop: Williston			
Questions and concerns raised	Description	Discussion points clarified by SARAO or SANParks	Management Implication on Park Desired State
Opinion on the area to be managed as a National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the park is there, we will not benefit from it, nor can we visit it due to its restrictions. One participant indicated that the value of a National Park should not be underestimated in having a positive influence in the surrounding area; however the local government should aim at making the town of Carnarvon more attractive to visitors. The local municipality indicated that it would welcome the National Park. 	SARAO indicated that the IEMP specifies that the management area should be set out for environmental land management purposes and that SANParks has been earmarked because the organisation is a specialist government organisation in terms of land management and conservation.	Providing access for visitors and or tourists would have to be addressed in the management plan.
Use of equipment in the SKA Area by SARAO and SANPARKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will SANParks and SARAO have a formal agreement that the park will not use any equipment that will interfere with the SKA? Please explain how such a contract will work? The proposed use of chainsaws with regards to alien clearing should be questioned in relation to the claims that SKA should be an electronic free area. Chainsaws and other motorised equipment produces electrical current. Why was the area initial set out as a radio signal and electronics signal free area when motorised equipment producing Hertz will be used during the operation of the SKA? 	Further information needed for SARAO and SANParks.	<p>Ensuring that effective management of the park will take place within the management restriction as set out by SARAO.</p> <p>The Park Management Plan provides methodologies in terms of park management objectives within the SARAO restrictions in terms of radio frequency production and management.</p>
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the goal of the park? Who will gain advantage if tourism is considered? 	<p>The goal of the National Park is to help SARAO to protect and manage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio frequency integrity; and 	Providing community based projects for the benefit of the community on a short, medium and long-term basis.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental integrity as per the IEMP. 	Considering tourist activities which is scheduled around the availability of time within the SKA program or activities that will not impact on the operations of the SKA radio telescope
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stakeholders raised concerns that not all participants have been made aware of the workshop due to lack of communication. A return Public Participation process was requested and if such process will not be provided the workshop be shifted until such time that all representatives can be present. The meeting called was described as an information session and not a workshop which was a concern to the delegates because proper preparation could not be done by the participants. Participants asked that topics of discussion be forwarded to them prior to the next workshop. 	SARAO representatives indicated that communications have been done throughout within the legislative framework regarding the public participation process. And those records are kept for reference by SARAO.	Ensuring regular, clear and accurate communications between the park management, SARAO and affected stakeholders.
Proclamation of the National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stakeholders indicated that it was of concern that it seems that a National Park has already been decided upon by SARAO / SANParks and that there was not an consultative process regarding the communities view if a park is welcomed or not. Is the decision that has been taken to proclaim a National Park final or can it be reversed. Will SARAO and SANParks still inform the community about the decision which has been made in this regard? 	SARAO indicated that the decision to approach SANParks was based on recommendations contained in the draft IEMP, which was widely consulted by the CSIR and the DEA, which indicate that the land should be managed in an environmental sustainable manner.	To conduct a public participation process during the National Park planning phase for the application of proclamation.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the park naming competition which SARAO / The Government provided to the children a confirmation that SARAO did not find it necessary to consult the community about the National Park? 		
Fencing	<p>The following questions and concerns were raised by the stakeholders regarding the boundary fence around the SARAO/SANParks area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fence specification: Concerns were raised around the type of fence that will be used for the proposed National Park and if the fence would be effective in keeping predators off neighbouring farmlands. Specific questions raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can SARAO and the neighbouring landowners enter into a contractual agreement whereby the neighbouring landowners are given the right to specify the needed fence? This will be seen as a fair trade between SARAO and the producing farms in terms of safeguarding stock against predators. What will be the specification of the proposed National Park fence? The new area will promote increased breeding of problem animals and these animals specifically Jackal and Caracal has learnt how to pass over, under or through fences. Ownership of the Fence: Stakeholders wanted to know who will be the owners of the fence. Management of the fence: Stakeholders wanted to know who will be responsible for the management of fence between SARAO and direct 	<p>Management of the park will be conducted by SANParks funded by SARAO based on the approved Park Management Plan</p> <p>SARAO indicated that a discussion with direct neighbouring landowners will be conducted during May in order to get input with regards to the fence and fence specifications.</p>	<p>Constructing a fence in consultation with the local community, specifically neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Using local expertise to consult on the fence upgrade and construction within acceptable financial constraints.</p> <p>Assisting with fence patrols and small scale maintenance of the fence to control the movement of problem animals onto neighbouring farms.</p>

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	<p>neighbouring landowners. Concerns were raised around the sharing of management cost and that neighbouring farmers will also be held financially accountable for the maintenance and management of the border fence between SARAO them.</p>		
Predator Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can SARAO and the neighbouring properties enter into a contractual agreement that predator control is to be conducted by an appointed competent problem animal hunters of the area trained in problem animal control? This will be fair in terms of farmers protecting their stock as SARAO is protecting their radio frequencies. • How will problem animal control be conducted by SARAO/SANParks and by whom? Or will problem animals only be tracked and researched even if it is proven that the problem is exacerbated by the change in land management? • What is the foreseen plan if there is an immediate increase in stock loss due to problem animals? • Which Animals specifically predators will be kept in the Park and will there be any introduced larger predators or big game? 	<p>SARAO and SANParks indicated that no new animals will be established on the SARAO property in the foreseeable future due to impact of drought and overgrazing that occurred. Park Management Plan will indicate a process to inform vegetation management and the reintroduction / supplement of animals that historically occurred here. It is not anticipated to establish large predators or big 5 game in the area.</p> <p>SARAO indicated that a predator/problem animal research program will be initiated and a control plan will then be implemented.</p>	<p>Introducing a research program to ascertain the population dynamics of meso-predators within the proposed National Park , as well as the impact of possible population density growth and shifts.</p> <p>To assist the neighbouring community with the management the impact of predation animals on stock production farms.</p>
Production on Farms at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock Marketers from Calvinia has reported that the Tankwa Karoo National Park has had a dramatic effect on the production within the district of what?. Producers on the edge of the Park indicated that weaning percentages varies from between 60 to 70%. This indicates that there is no control over predator control from the SANParks side. Producing farmers cannot afford a 30% stock loss. • Is there currently an Impact Assessment or study 	<p>SARAO indicated that a predator/problem animal research program will be initiated and a control plan will then be implemented.</p>	<p>Introducing a research program to ascertain the population dynamics of predation animals on the proposed National Parks site.</p>

	<p>which has been conducted in terms of the Tankwa Karoo National Park and the effect on local production of neighbouring stock production properties and economic knock on effect on the Hantam District? If such a study has been done can this be provided to the local producers? If such a study has not yet been conducted can an impact assessment be conducted prior to the establishment of the Park in order to make a proper informed proclamation decision?</p>		
<p>Economic Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will SARAO/SANParks substitute the economic contribution of the lost 38 production orientated farm units which has now been replaced/removed? • The assumption would be made that all income generated by the park will go to SANParks. What economic value will the park have for the surrounding area if any at all? • SARAO is responsible for the worsening of the economy within the Carnarvon District. Large scale and specialist contractors have been used in the past that then contracts out work to locals. In a lot of cases these larger contractors leave the area after work has been conducted without paying the smaller contractors for work conducted. Can SARAO and the business community not review the way contracts are structured to prevent none payment of locals for work performed? 	<p>A number of initiatives were undertaken to mitigate the impact of the SARAO land acquisition programme: Occupation of farms by previous owners up to December 2017 and extended to June 2018; Occupation Rent at R70,00 per ewe per year compared to the economic rate of between R280 and R350 per ewe; Employment of retrenched farmworkers by SARAO; Financial Support to the establishment for a feeding kraal in Williston</p> <p>SARAO indicated that training programs have been earmarked to train the people in the area in terms of needed job requirements and trades.</p> <p>Training was provided to small contractors to support tendering process, compilation of contracts and registration with applicable authorities and accredited bodies as</p>	<p>Use local community for the implementation of operational requirements within the proposed National Park.</p> <p>Design short, mid and long-term job creation opportunities within the proposed National Park.</p> <p>Small contractors and business to identify areas where SARAO might provide support through training and up-skilling in ensuring improved business practice and ensuring adequate protection against non-payment of larger contractors</p>

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		<p>required by legislation.</p> <p>SARAO indicated that there will be more work in the future and the work can be classed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The future construction of infrastructure within the SKA • Operational maintenance <p>SARAO and SANParks indicated that there will be programs that will require employment and that these requirements are being investigated</p>	
Land Claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the relationship between SARAO / SANParks influence future land claims? • Once the park has been proclaimed will land claims how does the land claims then get processed i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will land be granted or: ○ Compensation 	<p>SARAO indicated that this should be investigated by the Parties involved (SARAO, SANParks) with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR).</p> <p>To date no land claims have been lodged on portions of land forming part of the proposes park</p>	<p>The park and community should work in conjunction with the DRDLR to settle land claims made by claimants.</p>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will infrastructure, buildings and encampments be kept or will it be removed by SANParks? Will there be infrastructure left for future generations once the park has been de-proclaimed and the SKA project is finished? 	<p>SANParks indicated that the goal of a National Park is to change the park back to its natural state, however if structures do have significant heritage status it cannot be removed without a Heritage Impact Assessment and license.</p>	<p>Existing infrastructure on the proposed National Park will be managed according to the heritage report and on advice from a heritage specialist.</p>
Visiting of Family graveyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the previous land owners and labourers of the farms that have been bought by SARAO be allowed to visit their family graveyards and 	<p>SARAO and SANParks indicated that these opportunities will be afforded</p>	<p>Communicate to families when there is a maintenance window to schedule</p>

	gravesites?	to families.	graveyard visits.
Sustainable Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the declaration of the park and all associated activities which is typical of a National Park not viewed as a risk for the SKA Radio Frequency Telescope signals? The park should be profitable which means they want clientele. Why should farming then be discontinued? Can SKA please motivate their stance and decision? Can SARAO not consider small scale farming within the SKA under strict conditions which has been contractually agreed as an alternative to a National Park? 	SARAO indicated that if livestock were allowed into the SARAO property then accountability and liability for stock loss would shift to the landowner who would be SARAO. SARAO acquired the land to mitigate that risk.	The proposed National Park will not support farming practices within the confines of the park.
Thoroughfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the future of the Brandvlei road? Will the rode be closed or will it be open with entrance management? The stakeholders queried if the planned area would allow any thoroughfare, because the size of the SARAO would increase travelling from one point to another if no thoroughfare was allowed. 	SARAO indicated that consideration was given at thorough fare and that such thoroughfare would be done through control points. The use of electronic equipment during thoroughfare would be denied.	<p>Entrance management of members of the public will be controlled by SAROA.</p> <p>Members of the public driving through the park will be managed in terms of the impact on the environment.</p> <p>“Rules of the Park” and commuting through the park must be provided to members of the public prior to entering the proposed National Park.</p>
CSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pixley Ka Seme District council commented as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SARAO and SANParks should have a well-publicised CSI programme and both organizations should initiate and form part of economic development 	SAROA and SANParks indicated that they would like to work together with the Pixley ka Seme District Council and the comments made were noted.	To become part of the local government dynamic specifically in terms of co-operative governance this relates to planning, operations, and auditing of Integrated

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	<p>programmes within the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both SARAO and SANParks should make an effort to initiate in conjunction with the District Council and local municipalities educational programmes. • SARAO and SANParks should be part of the SMME's development within the local community • More government institutions should be included in the current discussions. • SARAO and SANParks should be part of the district communication forum. • SKA to be part of the IDP. 		<p>Development.</p> <p>Initiate and manage science based education programs for the surrounding schools in the area.</p> <p>Initiate environmental education programs for the surrounding schools in the area.</p> <p>Considering tourist activities which are scheduled around the availability of time within the SKA program.</p>
<p>Job Creation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the ark has been declared what assurance can be provided that local people will be used for work inside the National Park? • SARAO has promised job creation/job opportunities and training to local residents 10 years ago, but we see that only a select group of people get jobs because training has not been conducted sufficiently or on time for the related projects that has been completed. A large portion of local residents are still without work and non-locals are used by SARAO. Will SANParks conduct its business in the same way? • Will the job opportunities of SARAO/SANParks be of permanent nature? Currently the communication received from the project shows job creation which will not be sustainable and therefore there will only be a periodic positive effect on the local economy. 	<p>SARAO indicated that training programs have been earmarked to train and develop people in the local community in terms of needed job requirements and trades.</p> <p>SARAO indicated that there will be more work in the future and the work can be classed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The future construction of infrastructure within the SKA • Operational maintenance <p>SARAO and SANParks indicated that there will be programs that will need employment and that these requirements are being investigated</p>	

<p>Transparency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the audited statements from the start of the SKA project are requested for review. 	<p>SARAO is a national entity forming part of the National Research Foundation. All financial information are audited through internal auditors and through the Auditor General's Office</p>	<p>The proposed National Park should be managed in an open and transparent manner.</p>
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