

GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR OUTENIKUASBOSCH

16 March 2018

Definition of terms used in this document :

"Residents" refers to residents of the development generally known as Outeniquasbosch to be established on portions 9, 15 and 16 (Morgenster) of the Farm Outeniquasbosch 149, Mossel Bay and portions 10 and 28 of the Farm Hartenbosch 217, Mossel Bay.

"Game" refers to animals that roam freely within the boundaries of Outeniquasbosch and includes species endemic to South Africa .

1. GENERAL :

- 1.1 With reference to the provisional " Game Management Plan " and " Safety Procedures " dated 01/02/2006 , it is important to note that subsequent to negotiations between the developer and the various state departments , important changes have been made.

As far as the game is concerned , the most significant change is that the developer has decided to remove the buffalo from Outeniquasbosch as well as to reduce the number of Impala from 115 to 55.

One of the advantages resulting from this decision is that it will result in much less pressure on the grazing. Buffalo in particular are heavy grazers and their removal will therefore facilitate veld management.

Another considerable advantage is the reduction in the safety risk to residents that would have been associated with a free roaming herd of buffalo.

- 1.2 It is recorded that it is a condition of the Environmental Authorization for Outeniquasbosch that residents and

properties must be protected from wild animals by the erection of a game-proof fence. In order to make it unnecessary to erect a game-proof fence, no wild animals such as lion, leopard, cheetah, buffalo, elephant and rhino may be kept on Outeniquasbosch.

- 1.3 Should any wild animals of the kind referred to in paragraph 1.2 be introduced on Outeniquasbosch, it shall only be done after game-proof fencing has been erected so as to ensure that residents and properties are protected from wild animals.

2. GOAL :

The goal of this management plan is to create a sustainable management style for the HOA , that will ensure the safety of residents while simultaneously promoting the welfare of the game that occurs on Outeniquasbosch. It establishes guidelines for the monitoring and management of interaction between residents and game with the goal of avoiding conflict.

3. PASTURE (VELD) MANAGEMENT :

a. There are grazers , browsers and mixed feeders amongst the species that are kept at Outeniquasbosch. Only the available grazing will be affected by the development that is to take place because the planned development is to occur exclusively on old agricultural lands. The bushes , ravines and fynbos that comprise the habitat of the browsers are unaffected by the development.

b. Concerns were raised that because of the reduction in the available grazing area , the game would be forced into the conservational sensitive areas , which may give rise to pressure on these areas. The following facts, however, provide a basis for alleviating (and even removing) whatever concerns there may be in this regard.

-The number of hectares to be utilized for the development is 77. The number of hectares gained for the remaining grazers once the buffalo and some impala have been removed, is 135. Based on calculations

taking natural carrying capacity of the area into account , there will be more grazing available per large-stock unit after the development than before as a result of the removal of the buffalo and some impala.

- According to the attached copy of p. 14 of the Department of Agricultural Development's "Aspects of Game Farming In South Africa" by Yveta Stroleny (Research Centre for Grazing) Bulletin 420 , it is clear that the extent of shrub browse (as referred to in the table) is of no significance for the grazing species encountered on Outeniquasbosch ,namely zebra and bontebok. In other words, grazers will under no circumstance feed on fynbos;
- firsthand experience of farming game on Outeniquasbosch since 1989 strongly supports this conclusion. On at least three occasions Outeniquasbosch has experienced serious drought, during which periods the grazing species would have succumbed had they not been supported by a feeding program . Significantly these droughts were incapable of forcing the grazers to move into the fynbos areas in search of food.
- The removal of the buffalo reduces the grazing requirements substantially more than the previously mentioned loss of grazing due to the development.
- Veld management has always been applied conservatively in the past, ensuring that the sensitive flora species would also flourish. These sensitive flora species are indeed one of the unique attractions of the development, and the fact that the owner (who is also the developer) has managed to succeed in promoting and maintaining these sensitive species in such a good state since he acquired the land in 1980 is proof of his commitment towards nature conservation and responsible game farming.

4. GAME - MANAGEMENT PLAN :

The purpose of this document is to make recommendations regarding the choice and numbers of the species as well as the management of those numbers. Although these guidelines must be followed strictly, it remains a "living" document that may require revision based on ongoing monitoring of the veld and observations therefrom arising. Bearing droughts in mind, increasing pressure on the veld should be avoided. Therefore, the number of animals should be strictly controlled annually and should not be permitted to

increase. Regular game counts are essential, followed by action to reduce numbers when necessary.

Experience has taught that grazers and browsers do exceptionally well when kept together because it results in a more holistic utilization of the environment .

As a result of the moderate climate of the region, ticks and tick-borne diseases are potentially a serious problem. Therefore, only species resistant to ticks and tick-borne diseases will be considered.

The following are the recommended species and numbers:

- I. 20 Bontebok (Selective grazer);
- II. 15 Bushbuck (browser);
- III. 5 Giraffe (browser);
- IV 10 Kudu (browser);
- V. 40 Nyala (mixed);
- VI. 50 Impala ewes + 5 adult rams. Sub-adults not included (mixed feeder);
- VII. 20 Burchell Zebra (non-selective grazer);
- VIII. 15 Waterbuck (selective grazer)

Given the above species and their numbers, the resulting composition will be as follows:

% Mixed feeders	33,28%;
% Grazers (non-selective)	20%;
% Grazers (selective)	21,73%;
% Browsers	<u>24,99%;</u>
-	100%

This is the ideal composition for the management of Outeniquasbosch because it allows for optimal utilization in a sustainable manner that will provide sufficient grazing and browsing even in times of drought.

The introduction of further species is strongly discouraged because it will necessitate a proportional reduction in numbers of afore-mentioned species . This will result in non-viable populations.

Total numbers allowable per specie:

As it becomes necessary to reduce the number of animals, there are various methods available , namely :

-Passive capture in the existing capture facility,

- Darting by a veterinarian for live sale,
- Harvesting of animals for meat (only a viable option in the Northern areas of Outeniquasbosch where there will be no residences. Animals will be harvested at night under strict rules.

The number of animals to be removed, the value of the animals and cost of the method employed, will determine which method that will be most appropriate. Typically, the higher value species are ideal candidates for darting and live sale , whereas the lower value species are more likely to be harvested for their meat.

Hand-raised animals:

No male hand-raised game species may be kept on Outeniquasbosch. These male animals lose their fear of humans and can become extremely dangerous.

5. RULES FOR RESIDENTS REGARDING THE GAME

I. It is important for residents of Outeniquasbosch to appreciate the fact that Outeniquasbosch is home to a large number of wild animals. These animals will naturally graze and browse any planted gardens and residents will be encouraged to integrate their gardens as fully as possible with the open areas. The goal must be to appreciate and promote harmony between man and nature.

II. Residents will be properly informed and educated with regard to the use of cycling, horse riding and hiking trails, as well as the natural behavior patterns of the game species encountered on Outeniquasbosch;

III. No game drives with private vehicles will be permitted on the hiking, cycling or horse riding trails outside of the "residential areas " made accessible by roads;

IV. Only dogs that sleep indoors will be permitted, unless the properties concerned (or parts thereof) are enclosed with a fence approved by the home owners association.

V. All dogs and cats must have a microchip implanted. A veterinary certificate with the microchip number must be provided to the homeowners association so that it can be entered into a register.

VI. A veterinary certificate proving that the dog/cat has been spayed or castrated must be provided to the homeowners association by the time they are 1 year old.

VII. A refundable deposit equivalent to 200% of the veterinary cost to spay or castrate the dog/cat is payable when any new pet is introduced. The deposit will be refunded upon provision of the aforementioned veterinary certificate containing the animal's microchip number.

VIII. In the instance where the owner of a domestic pet fails to provide a neutering certificate and proof that a microchip was implanted, the homeowners association will be entitled to have the procedures done at any veterinary practice and to recover the cost from the deposit referred to in 5 VIII. The owner shall to the satisfaction of the HOA indemnify the HOA and the veterinarian against any claims should the pet die as a result of the procedure referred to;

IX. Walking of dogs outside of the fenced area of a residence is only permitted if the dog is on a leash;

X. Dogs not on a leash found outside an erf, as well as stray dogs, will be picked up and scanned for a microchip by a representative of the homeowners association to identify the owner. The owner will be liable to pay a R500 fine to the homeowners association. The amount of this fine will be regularly revised. If the same dog is picked up by a representative of the homeowners association outside its owner's fenced residence 3 times in a period of 12 months, such dog shall be removed permanently from Outeniquasbosch by the owner, failing which the HOA shall be entitled to have the dog removed at the expense of the owner.

In the case where a problem animal is too aggressive for the representative of the homeowners association to remove the same, a practicing veterinarian will be called in to dart/immobilize the animal. The cost associated with such procedure will be recovered from the owner of the dog. The owner shall to the satisfaction of the

HOA indemnify the HOA and the veterinarian against any claims should the pet die as result of the procedure referred to.

XI. IN the case where a stray dog injures or kills a wild animal, the costs incurred (including the veterinary cost of treating such an injured animal) will be the responsibility of the owner of the dog.

XII. No rabbits may be kept as pets to prevent cross-breeding with indigenous wild rabbits in case of escape.

XIII. With reference to the risk of snares, theft and illegal hunting of game, especially during the construction phase, owners will be held jointly responsible for ensuring that the architects guidelines of the home owners association are brought to the attention of, and adhered to by building contractors, especially with regard to thorough enclosure of the building site with shade netting. No construction workers may at any time move around outside of their construction sites.

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