



7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
Protected Areas System Strengthening (PASS) Project



21 October 2016

Nice, Windhoek

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**ATTENDED:**

Ms L. Mupetami:	Deputy Permanent Secretary, NRM, MET (Chairperson)
Mr C. Sikopo:	Director, Wildlife and National Parks, MET
Ms E. Hamunyela:	Director, Scientific Services, MET
Mr V. Kaulinge:	Deputy Director, Planning and Coordination, MET
Ms T. Emvula:	Deputy Director, Finance Division, MET
Mr J. Ndokosho:	Deputy Director, Wildlife and National Parks, MET
Ms M. Boonzaier:	Prosecutor, Office of the Prosecutor General, MoJ
Mr B. De Klerk:	Deputy Commissioner, PRD, NAMPOL
Ms I. Morota-Alakija:	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
Ms F. Imbili:	Intern, UNDP
Mr J.N. Heita:	Manager, PASS Project
Mr K. E. Shilongo:	Field Coordinator, PASS Project
Mr U. Matundu:	Field Coordinator, PASS Project
Ms H. Sakaria:	Administrator Accountant, PASS Project
Ms V. Jason:	System Administrator, PASS Project
Ms R. Hasheela-Haipinga:	Technical Advisor, PASS Project (Secretary)

**APOLOGIES**

Col F. Rugharo:	Senior Staff Officer, Legal Services, MoD
Mr T. Nghitila:	Environmental Commissioner & GEF Focal Point, MET
Col. Willem Morkel:	Senior Staff Officer, Military School, MoD
Mr F. Nghifewa:	Director, Economic Policy Advisory Services, MoF
Ms M. Mbapaha:	Senior Forester, Directorate of Forestry, MAWF
Mr K. Uiseb:	Deputy Director, DSS

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**AGENDA**

1. Welcoming
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

- MET to distribute the HWC Policy to Police Stations across the country.
- MET to provide contact numbers for regional offices to Police Stations to enhance communication between the Police and MET, in cases where HWC incidents are reported to the Police Station.

**Feedback:**

- ✓ The Director of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) reported that the MET regional heads were requested to distribute the HWC Policy and their telephone numbers to police stations in their regions.
- ✓ In addition, MET is busy reviewing the HWC Policy and has been conducting public consultations across the country. The Police is one of the key stakeholder and is duly represented at the public consultations.

### 3.4. International exposure on anti-poaching strategies

A concept for the envisaged international exposure for wildlife crime prevention and anti-poaching strategies has been developed. The concept serves as a guideline to arrange for an exposure trip for law enforcement officers who are involved in anti-poaching operations and for that, two (2) countries have been identified, namely: South Africa and Tanzania, respectively. The 2 countries are considered to be highly experienced and technologically advanced with regard to anti-poaching operations.

The aim of the visit is to expose law enforcement officers to anti-poaching strategies in the identified countries. As outlined in the concept, the exposure trip is envisaged for law enforcement officers from MET and NAMPOL - PRD.

**Previous Action:**

- PMU to finalise the concept and submit it to the Director of WNP for approval.

**Feedback:**

- ✓ The concept was drafted and submitted to the Permanent Secretary (PS), and
- ✓ the PS has requested for audience to clarify certain aspects.

**Action 2:**

- Further consultations with the PS required.
- Upon consultations with the PS, the PMU should coordinate further with the Director of WNP and the Commissioner for Protected Resource Unit (PRD), to finalize arrangements and identify participants from the two (2) institutions (MET and NAMPOL – PRD).

### 3.5. Fire Management Conference in-conjunction with NAFOLA Project, MAWF

The preparation of the Fire Management Conference is in progress. The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), through the two (2) sister projects, namely: the Sustainable Management of Namibia's Forested Lands (NAFOLA) and the Protected Areas System Strengthening (PASS). The two (2) projects are funded by GEF through the UNDP.

The aim of the workshop is to bring together fire management experts and other roleplayers. The conference objectives are as follows:

- Identify fire management experts / roleplayers and request them to present their roles, including but not limited to; fire management legal framework in Namibia, fire management practices, fire research etc.);
- Identify synergies and establish a fire management network;
- Identify resource people / institutions for guidance; and

enforcement operations, however they are all very useful during fire operations, human wildlife conflict and other park management activities. The Satphones are particularly useful in remote areas where there is no network (cellphone / radio), or any other form of communication.

Since acquisition, monitoring the use of Satphones has been a challenge, and the project has been working hard to obtain monthly statements from the UK based service provider.

<p><b>Previous Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project to acquire Satphone Statements to enhance Monitoring and Control of Satphone use</li> <li>• Project to explore the possibility of procuring more Satphones</li> </ul>
<p><b>Feedback:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The project is happy to report that, the service provider has provided the project with an online / website link and password, from which Satphone statements can be downloaded. As of August 2016, the project can access and provide Satphone statements to MET for monitoring and control. If abuse is detected with a particular Satphone, statements can show the telephone numbers dialled, date, time and call duration.</li> <li>✓ Although there is a need to procure more Satphones, the project reported that, the budget for Q4 for 2016 does not allow such expenditure and specific needs maybe considered for 2017.</li> </ul>

### 3.8. Training of Prosecutors, Investigators and Magistrates

The Training of Prosecutors and Investigating Officers was conducted during April and May, 2016 respectively. However, only three (3) sessions training sessions were held, as follows:

- ✓ Etosha North (all the "O" regions north of Etosha),
- ✓ Etosha West, South and East (Kunene, Otjozondjupa and part of Oshikoto – Tsumeb), and
- ✓ Northeast (Kavango West, Kavango East and Zambezi Regions)

During the Ministerial Committee meeting on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2016, recommended that the training on the Prosecution of Wildlife Crimes should be offered to the prosecutors and investigating officers for the central areas, particularly Windhoek.

In addition to the prosecutors and investigating officers in Windhoek, another request was made for the training to be offered to the magistrates, as they play an important role in the prosecution and sentencing of wildlife crimes. The training for Magistrates can be adjusted to include / focus on the bail applications and sentencing. The PSC strongly recommended the two (2) training sessions, and requested the project to avail funds for this training.

<p><b>Previous Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project to make budgetary provisions for the Training of Prosecutors and Investigation officers for the Central regions (Windhoek)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Feedback:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Budget for 2016 is committed for ongoing activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action 5:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Budgetary provision for the training of Prosecutors and Investigating officer for central regions to be made for 2017 (Q1).</li> </ul>

It was also mentioned that there is an American organisation that works closely with the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) and maybe willing to fund the training of the prosecution of Wildlife Crimes.

North East repectively

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2016. The aim of this meeting is to discuss and approve the Annual Work Plan for Year 4 (2017).


**7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The chairperson thanked the members for making time from their busy schedules to attend the PSC meeting and for the contribution made.

**8. CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES**

  
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Raili Hasheela-Haipinge  
Secretary

Date: 20/04/17

  
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Louisa Mupetami  
Chairperson

Date: 25/04/17