

Dr B. Nomvete

Commission for Lineal Delimitation
P.O. Box 307

Isando

1600

COMMISSION ON REGIONS

Ref:1 /11/..â\200\231.â\200\231./25.1

Att : Dr B. Nomvete

5th July

Dear Dr Nomvete,

Attached please find a summary proposal which | have been asked to forward to you on behalf of Mr John Williams of the Steering Committee of the Hoedspruit District Development Association.

The 3 documents referred to in the first paragraph of the attached summary, are to be sent to you under separate cover this week.

Should you not receive them timeously, please call Mrs Anne Morgan on (01528) 35114.

Yours sincerely,

A T

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SUMMARY OF BOUNDARY PROPOSALS FOR REGION "G"

PREPARED BY i The Hoedspruit Steering
Committee for Regional
Development

This summary makes provision for inclusion of the following documents : -
1. Executive Summary (June 1993)

2. Hoedspruit DDA Pilot Study (October 1992)
3. Minutes of Steering Committee meeting (June 1993)

BACKGROUND

In the above mentioned documents the Hoedspruit Committee have drawn attention to : -

1. The necessity for BIOREGIONAL PLANNING for the Escarpment and Lowveld Bioregions (appendix IA, IB).
2. The urgent attention of RESOURCE MANAGERMENTS with particular attention to the WATER RESOURCE in the Bioregion (appendix II)
 - o The desirability of forming INTERNATIONAL BIOSPHERE RESERVES (UNESCO) within the Region (appendix III).
4. The RATIFICATION of these principles by the M.D.M. IN THE PROCESS, and during the formation of Development Forums has been initiated (appendix IV and IV.2).

THE BOUNDARY PROPOSAL

- a. Includes the incorporation of the whole Lowveld and Escarpment region into Development Region G (appendix I).

Following the Bioregional planning principles namely the provision for the management of CATCHMENTS it is further proposed : -

- b. That the Lowveld and Escarpment region be divided and that the Escarpment region be divided into SUB REGIONS or DISTRICTS (appendix I.B) and that these
- c. Be DEMARCATED BY CATCHMENTS namely along the catchments of the -

LUVUBU/MUTALE
SELATI

SABIE

NKOMATI
DWARS RIVIER
LETABA

(See Appendix II)

CO USION

It is estimated that the GDP of this proposed region is approximately 78% of the GDP of the whole existing Region G, and the management of the resources falling within this proposed boundary is vitally important for a sustainable future development of the Region.

Water resource is the number one priority and without control of the catchments, correct management (IEM) cannot be implemented. This will adversely effect -

FORESTRY
AGRICULTURE
INDUSTRY
TOURISM

To underpin development in this region it is the committee's opinion that a revision of the boundaries is imperative.

JULY 1993

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PRESENT R.D.A.C.

DEVELOPMENT

BOUNDARIES OF : -
REGIDN @ ZIMBABWE

. â\200\230 MOZAMBIQUE
K PROPOSED INCORPORATION
\] OF COMPLETE LOWVELD
AND ESCARPMENT BIOREGION
INTO REGION G

BOTSWANA

BOPHUTHATSWANA

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PROPOSED DISTRICTS
OF THE LOWVELD
AND.ESCARPMENT

BIOREGION Å®

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APPENDIX I.B

LOWVELD AND
ESCARPMENT

BIOREGION -
OF REGION Â®

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APPENDIX 11

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Olifants River

PHALABORWA

HOEDSPRUIT

Blyde River

OHRIGSTAD

Blyde River

ACORNHOEK

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WOLKBERG SERALA WILDERNESS AREA
(CATEGORY 1)

LEGALAMETSI NATURE RESERVE
(Proclaimed 1991) (CATEGORY IV)

OLIFANTS RIVER NATURE RESERVE
(Proposed) (CATEGORY IV)

SWADINI MANUTSA PROTECTED
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
(Proposed) (CATEGORY V)

BLYDE RIVER NATURE RESERVE
(Proclaimed 1965) (CATEGORY II)

MARIEPSKOP BOTANICAL RESERVE
(Proposed) (CATEGORY I)

SABI SAND GAME RESERVE
(Proclaimed 1955) (CATEGORY IV)

MANYELETI GAME RESERVE (CATEGORY IV)

TIMBAVATI
(Proclaimed 1956) (CATEGORY IV)

UMBABAT NATURE RESERVE
(Proclaimed 1956) (CATEGORY IV)

KLASERIE NATURE RESERVE
(Proclaimed 1972) (CATEGORY V)

LETABA NATURE RESERVE
(Proposed) (CATEGORY IV)

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK
(Proclaimed 1926) (CATEGORY II)

OLIFANTS LIMPOPO TRANS
FRONTIER PEACE PARK PROPOSAL
(SANF 1991) (CATEGORY X)

FOITNOTE:

All the above communities are incorporated in the
Rwedspruit proposal, to form Cluster Biosphere Reserves
in the Savanna/Montane Regions of the Central District.

(Category IX)

PRESENT POLITICO -
ETHNIC BOUNDRIES
OF THE LOWVELD AND
ESCARPMENT BIOREGION

TIMBAVATI/KLASERIE
SABI SAND/MANYELETI
LEBOWA

KANGWANE
GAZANKULU

VENDA

262 /7

APPENDIX IV.I

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
CANTONS OF THE CENTRAL |
" DISTRICT OF THE LOWVELD |
BIOREGION (PARTLY DRAWN]

APPENDIX IV.IT

~end- 26310

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Â® EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HOEDSPRUIT DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION (DDA)

HOEDSPRUIT WARD
OF SUB-REGION 5
OF PLANNING REGION 25

OF

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (RDA)
REGION G

PILOT STUDY RELATING TO

= THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ASSOCIATION IN THE PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT

= PLANNING PROCEDURES AND MECHANISMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN
THE FUTURE

= DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING PROJECTS THE DDA COULD
PARTICIPATE IN

PREPARED BY:
HOEDSPRUIT DDA STEERING COMMITTEE

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. w7
DENNIS MOSS . - PARTNERSHIP

17 MARKET STREET & 371
FAX: 02231-5393 STELLENBOSCH 7600 2 02231-70124
L ARCHITEC TS URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNERS [ANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS |

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION DATA PLANS BY:

MESSRS G.1.S. LAB - PRETORIA UNIVERSITY AND
MESSRS WILLEM VAN RIET LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

OUR REF: N2284
JUNE 1993
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

IUCN International Union For The Conservation Of Nature
UNEP United Nations Environmental Programme

UNESCO United Nations Education Scientific And Cultural
Organisation

WWF World Wide Life Fund For Nature
WCS World Conservation Strategy

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation
CBO Community Based Organisation
NCS National Conservation Strategy
MAB Man And The Biosphere Programme

UNCED United Nations Conference On Environment And
Development

DDA District Development Association

RDAC Regional Development Advisory Council

RSC Regional Services Council

NRDAC National Regional Development Advisory Council

GIS Geographical Information Systems

. BACKGROUND AND BRIEF

During September 1991 this office was appointed by Hoedspruit DDA to assist the Association with the preparation of a "Pilot Study" that would serve as a guide to the DDA relating to their role and possible contribution to the planning and development of the Hoedspruit district.

Messrs Willem van Riet Landscape Architects and Messrs GIS Lab of Pretoria were appointed as specialist consultants to assist with the preparation of a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data-base for the pilot study.

The pilot study report was prepared during the period October 1991 to October 1992 and was funded by the N-Tvl RSC, through the N-Tvl Rural Council with support of the RDAC Region G.

In essence the pilot study served to:

= provide an overview of legislation, organizational structures (both government and non-government), procedures and mechanisms that members of the DDA need to assist them in their participation in the planning process;

provide an overview of the international planning and development trends and programmes relating to balancing the interest of nature conservation with development, i.e. promoting sustainable development;

make preliminary recommendations relating to planning and development that could be considered in the future.

The above issues are addressed under Section I to Section IV of the report, namely:

SECTION I: The Planning Environment; International and National trends; Organizational Structures and Mechanisms:
Planning Procedures and Methodologies

SECTION II: Regional Planning Policy and Trends

SECTION III: The Role of Hoedspruit DDA in the planning of the region with reference to:

1. Environmental Planning Considerations
2. Agricultural Development
3. Tourism Promotion

SECTION IV: Conclusions And Recommendations

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SECTION 1

THE PLANNING ENVIRONMENT; ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS : PLANNING PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGIES

For anyone involved in planning for the future it is important to evaluate possible future national and international trends and to consider the possible impact thereof on their areas of interest.

Ninety percent of all population growth is taking place in "Third World" countries, all of whom have experienced a steady decline in per capita income for the past twenty years. Over the past 20 years world industrial output has increased by 100% but this growth takes place in countries that are already wealthy, i.e. "First World" industrialised countries. In poor countries population growth exceeds capital growth and a pattern has developed of growing bigger whilst becoming poorer.

In essence, the challenge is to *manage and direct growth in order to achieve sustainable development. It is from this position that policy makers, planners and communities need to consider their role, and the methods that they could employ, to make a positive contribution towards such a sustainable development process.

The practical realities in South Africa today are that there is no overall policy and/or strategy in place in terms of which sustainable development can be achieved.

Economic growth of the past has been achieved at considerable expense to the natural environment and therefore did not support sustainability. Population growth in South Africa has been much greater than economic growth for many years now. This has led to an intolerable position of increasing poverty and natural resource loss.

There is evidence that a sense of urgency and understanding is developing on a national scale, that planning and development policies will have to be aimed at attaining sustainable development, and that South Africa will have to emerge from its international isolation to achieve this.

Spatial and socio-economic planning and implementation takes place within the framework of at least 30 Acts and Provincial Ordinances.

Considering the environmental significance of the Lowveld area, the most important Acts as they relate to the preparation of the Pilot Study, are the Physical Planning Act (125/1991), the Environment Conservation Act (73/1989) and the National Parks Board Act (57/1976). Of great importance also, are the TPA Ordinances on Land-Use Planning and Nature Conservation.

The Physical Planning Act makes provision for planning to be undertaken on three levels, namely; National, Regional and Local.

The 1991 IUCN/UNEP/WWF World Conservation Strategy defines "sustainable development" as "... improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems"

The following options for the protection of the environment exists in South Africa.

FORMAL PROTECTION

Protected Natural Environments
Private Nature Reserves
National Monuments

Mountain Catchment Areas
Contractual National Parks

INFORMAL PROTECTION

- = Natural Heritage Sites
- = Sites of Conservation Significance
- = Conservancies

Planning for the future requires that mechanisms be created to facilitate dialogue and communication.

In this regard the following needs to be highlighted:

- = Statutory structures
- = Non-statutory planning initiatives
- = Strategic Planning methodologies

Hoedspruit DDA is one of more than a hundred districts in the country, which together, are grouped into 44 planning regions which in turn are grouped together in 9 development regions A to I. Hoedspruit DDA falls within Region G. This regional planning structure created for private sector participation by government is linked to the Cabinet through the Minister of

Finance, through the Provincial Administration's Regional Services Councils and the local authorities as is illustrated on the diagram below.

ORGANOGRAM OF PRIVATE SECTOR INPUT REGARDING DEVELOPMENT *

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* Adapted from the inetitute for SA Ecologiet's Bulletin 10(2)1991

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. Non-government organisations and community-based organisations have prepared, or are preparing, alternative mechanisms and structures to those of government as they relate to national and regional development planning.

Especially important in this regard was the establishment of a national development forum by the Mass Democratic Movements (ANC, COSATU, Civics and others) on 6 - 8 September 1991 and the proposals of the ANC's constitutional committee for the establishment of 10 development regions in South Africa along the lines of the 1910 boundaries.

Looking at the future, greater emphasis would therefore be placed on the role of communities in the decision-making process.

This report briefly describes the basic principles of strategic planning that could be employed to facilitate participative planning.

It is shown that strategic planning requires a structured methodology and a team approach, and that the process itself is more important than the final product.

Specifically it is highlighted that the planning process plays a critical role in:
= Providing an integrated picture of the community's current position and

future prospects.

- o Identifying trends and directions that shape the community and help to establish a sense of direction.

= Positioning the community to see its opportunities and to act, rather than merely react to change.

Â® Allocating limited resources to the most pressing issues.

Â® Identifying those actions, policies and investments that would have the greatest impact on the future status of the community.

= Ensuring that activities have a longer term focus and direction regardless of changing leadership and erupting crises.

= Providing a mechanism for public/private sector co-operation.

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It is universally accepted that democratic and efficient government is based on sound regional planning, and that the criteria for the demarcation of regions must be nationally acceptable to function effectively.

Under paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the report an outline of Government and Non-Government regional development policies are provided.

The demarcation of development and planning regions in South Africa is fundamentally integrated into a debate relating to a new constitutional dispensation for South Africa. The criteria in terms of which such demarcation will take place, the organisational structures and statutory prescriptions that would govern it, etc., still need to be formulated and agreed upon.

During 1988 Government stated that the National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) of 1975 forms the physical basis of government's regional development strategy. (Nine development regions, 44 planning regions, etc. as is referred to above).

In a statement during 1992, the State President put forward new considerations regarding regional functions, policy, considerations for the demarcation of regions. Regional policy is fundamental to the negotiation process presently underway.

All the major non-government organisations (NGO's) and/or political parties have, to a greater and lesser degree, put forward proposals relating to regional development and planning. Central to all the considerations and proposals is that regions would play a decisive role in any new constitutional dispensation, whether a centralist form of government is favoured, or whether a federal system is favoured.

Considering the universally accepted goal to promote sustainable development, it is clear that the role of the environment and specifically maintaining biological diversity, will have to be considered as important factors and criteria in establishing regional planning policy. Due to this country's political isolation on an international front, policy mechanisms and structures that have been established on international level, have by and large passed us by.

Economic growth of the past has been achieved at considerable expense to the natural environment in South Africa. Population growth has been much greater than economic growth for many years now which has led to the intolerable situation of increased poverty and natural resource loss.

From political and public debate, it is evident that there is broad agreement on the basic principles relating to nature conservation and the need to support sustainable development policies and programmes.

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In the South African Government's UNCED report (Dept. of Environmental Affairs, CSIR: UNCED Report, 1992) "An Agenda for Action:; Strategies and Recommendations" 200\235, it is mentioned that an agenda for a strategy for sustainable development will still require extensive debate across the full spectrum of opinion in South Africa. In addition, it is trusted that the sustainable development principles will at least be debated as part of the process of constitutional reform. In the report the objective is set that every effort should be made to develop and debate the different technical components that a national policy will require.

In the President's Council report "National Environmental Management Policy (1991), it is stressed that South Africa should integrate conservation and economic planning to emphasize their interdependence and common objectives. In addition, South Africa should develop a coherent environmental policy and more effective legislation and administrative procedures (par. 4.3.12 of the Council's report). It is also stressed that there is a special need to integrate environmental management into national, regional and local structures, which in turn should be framed in optimal development strategies (par. 4.3.13 of the Council's report). "Environmental objectives should be closely associated with regional and sub-regional development frameworks".

In the President's Council report it is stated (par. 4.3.21) that: "The ultimate aim of resource management is to achieve the highest possible level of human well-being over long term horizons. A policy designed to meet this aim could be termed "Sustainable Development Policy" 200\235 (par. 4.3.22).

Conservation-based policies and strategies in South Africa are also strongly influenced by many political organisations, NGO's, community interest groups, institutions and individuals.

In the introduction to the ANC Environmental Policy and Goals (Mayibuye Iâ\200\231 Afrika), the ANC states that it would "adopt policies to ensure adequate protection, conservation and restoration of the environment.

The ANC undertakes to put into practice a conservation strategy based on the following elements:

- * The integration of rural development and conservation, including the development and marketing of wild plant and animal products; the domestication of wild species; and the development of wildlife-based tourism.

The expansion of the current system of National Parks and protected areas in an effort to increase the land set aside for conservation from the current 4% to the recommended 10%, with the overall objective being a network of protected areas designed to cover the complete spectrum of wildlife species and habitats.

Similarly, as is also reported in UNCED, the Inkatha Freedom party (IFP) in "A Policy to Preserve Our Heritage: Where The IFP stand on the Environment" 200\235 (1991), subscribes to the following three premises:

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' Â® Mankind is an integral part of nature and is utterly dependent upon the Earth for his well-being as Nature is the source of life.

B The basic needs of all people for food, shelter and clothing should be met, all people should have an equal opportunity to improve their quality of life. These opportunities must be achieved in harmony with and not at the expense of our natural environment.

L We hold this world in trust for our children. We should give them a world that is no less diverse and productive than the one we have inherited.

The Democratic Party (DP) calls for a holistic and integrated approach: "Political boundaries should be of secondary importance to a global approach in the protection of natural systems and the preservation of an ecological balance. "

The Conservative Party (CP) views the situation as follows.

"Serious cultural differences exist between the various races. The CP sees development regarding a future new South African constitution, which will ensure the true freedom of all South Africaâ\200\231s people, only along the lines of separate development. Naturally our national environmental system will be based on this principle.â\200\235 The CP sees no contradiction between this approach and its commitment to maintaining all forms of life in South Africa in line with the World Conservation Strategy of 1980."

From the above, it can be safely deduced that there is a broad-based agreement in South Africa regarding the conservation/sustainable development challenges facing the country and on the principles that need to be adopted to address these challenges. One can expect the few differences that may exist to be resolved in the process of resolving socio-political differences.

It is clear that there is a strong positive correlation between South African thinking and that of the international community.

In the foreword to the Second World Conservation Strategy "Caring For The Earth, A Strategy For Sustainable Livingâ\200\235 (1991), it is stated that the complexities that the world is facing, have become clearer since 1980 and the need to act has become more pressing.

"Caring For The Earth" provides unambiguous direction for world and national conservation-based development strategies and action plans.

In Chapter 1 of "Caring For The Earthâ\200\235 nine principles of a sustainable ..society are identified and described.

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- I. Respect and care for the community of life.
- II. Improve the quality of human life.
- III. Conserve the Earth's vitality and diversity.
- IV. Minimize the depletion of non-renewable resources.
- V. Keep within the Earth's carrying capacity.
- VI. Change personal attitudes and practices.
- VII. Enable communities to care for their own environments.
- VIII. Provide a national framework for integrating development and conservation.
- IX. Create a global alliance.

In Caring for the Earth actions are listed that are aimed at achieving these ideals, namely: |

= Develop strategies for sustainability, and implement them directly and through regional and local planning

= Conclude new international agreements to help achieve global sustainability

o Prepare and adopt a Universal Declaration and Covenant on Sustainability

Â® Undertake national and sub-national strategies for sustainability

= Build up the global alliance

In the T7hird Draft of the Global Diversity Strategy (WRI/IUCN/UNEP), it is stated that in planning for the future, effort will have to be tailored to both ecological processes and the needs and perceptions of local communities. This integrative approach is termed â\200\234Bioregional Managementâ\200\235 (or Bioregional planning).

A Bioregion is defined by the IUCN/WRI/UNEP as a land and water territory whose limits are defined not by political boundaries, but by the geographical limits of human communities and ecological systems.

The building blocks for bioregional management and planning is considered by the WRI as UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere Programmeâ\200\235 (MAB).

"The MAB programme is a nationally based international programme of research, training, demonstration and information dissemination aimed at providing the scientific basis and the trained personnel needed to deal with problems relative to rational utilisation and conservation of resources and resource systems and, to human settlementsâ\200\235.

"The MAB programme emphasizes research for solving problems: it thus involves research by multi-disciplinary teams on the interaction between ecological and social systems; field training; and the application of a systems approach to understanding the relationship between the natural and human components of development and environmental management. "

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. Biospheres are defined by UNESCO as follows - "Biosphere reserves are protected areas of representative terrestrial and coastal environments which have been internationally recognised under the UNESCO MAB programme for their value in conserving and providing the scientific knowledge, skills and human values to support sustainable development. Biosphere reserves are united to form a worldwide network which facilitates sharing of information relevant to the conservation management of natural and managed ecosystemsâ\200\235.

The sketch below illustrates the concept.

CORE AREA (STRICTLY PROTECTED)

.
EE= BUFFER ZONE (STRICTLY DELINEATED)
[transmon ARea

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

R RESEARCH STATION OR EXPERIMENT
M MONITORING

E EDUCATION & TRAINING

T TOURISM & RECREATION

A schematic zonation of a Dbiosphere reserve
(From a "Practical Guide to MAB" - UNESCO 1987)

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. The ideal biosphere reserve consists of one or more core conservation areas surrounded by a buffer zone and transition zones. The zones around the core serve to integrate the reserve with ecosystems, land-use, socio-economical and cultural systems of the bioregion within which it is located.

By way of illustration 12 potential biosphere reserves in Southern Africa are identified in the report, namely:

The Fynbos cluster biosphere
Richtersveld cluster biosphere
Central Karoo biosphere
Augrabies cluster biosphere
Drakensberg cluster biosphere
South-Cape forest biosphere
Coastal forest cluster biosphere
Lowveld cluster biosphere
Addo cluster biosphere
Tangkwa Karoo cluster biosphere
Vaalbos biosphere

Golden Gate cluster biosphere

The scientific advisory panel for biosphere reserves has highlighted three main concerns that should be present in a biosphere reserve concept, namely:

Conservation Concern

The need to reinforce the conservation of genetic resources and ecosystems and the maintenance of biological diversity;

Logistic Concern

The need to set up a well identified international network of areas directly related to MAB field research and monitoring activities including the accompanying training and information exchange;

Development Concern

The need to associate concretely, environmental protection and land resources development as a governing principle for research and education activities of the MAB programme.

The objective of the MAB programme is to cover all 193 biogeographical provinces of the world. (More than 300 Biospheres have already been established). At present approximately 125 (65%) of these provinces are covered by the MAB programme. Four (6 biomes) of these provinces are situated in South Africa and are not included in the MAB programme, viz. Fynbos Biome, Bushveld (Savanna), Desert and Semi-Desert and Mixed Mountains and Highlands.

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In Section II of the report the focus shifts to the Hoedspruit district and the relevance of the issues raised under Sections I and II, especially as they relate to the three priorities identified by the DDA; namely environment and agricultural and tourism development.

In this section it is pointed out that the following needs to be considered:
Environmental Planning Considerations

Considering the potential value of bio-regional planning, the potential for the establishment of a Biosphere in the Lowveld with Kruger National Park as the Core Area and portions of the private nature reserves on its western boundary as Buffer Zones or Transition Areas could become a viable option. In the light of the general debate relating to the demarcation of regions in South Africa, as is described under Sections I and II, it is considered that the establishment of a bioregion for the area as illustrated on the map below, could be realized.

In the longer term the proposed extension of the bioregion to the east could be considered by incorporating Mozambique territory as has been extensively investigated by the Southern African Nature Foundation. Although it is accepted that the establishment of such a bioregion may be premature if considered against the background of the constitutional process the country is going through, and this country's present exclusion from international bodies such as the United Nations etc., it is nevertheless proposed that a start be made by employing these bioregional planning principles at this stage in planning for the future. For the purpose of illustrating the principles relating to the establishment of a biosphere in the Hoedspruit district, the map included below has been prepared showing the different zonations that could be established in the vicinity of Hoedspruit town, namely:

= Core Area

The Kruger National Park

= Buffer Zone

The Private Nature Reserves to the west of the Park

= Transition Zone 1:

This area primarily consists of private land immediately adjacent to the Buffer Zone.

. L] Transition Zone 2:

In the Hoedspruit district, Transition Zone 2 could, in principle, include the agricultural areas. Throughout the agricultural areas of the Lowveld there are patches of natural vegetation amongst the agriculturally developed lands which protect plants and habitats. The river courses of the area form corridors of natural vegetation which can be used to link larger patches of natural vegetation. By building up a conservation awareness amongst the population of this area, these small conservation-worthy corridors and patches can be protected within agricultural areas. These patches would then be included into, and add impetus, to a biosphere reserve.

o Transition Zone 3:

Since towns like Hoedspruit are situated in close proximity to the core areas of the Savanna biosphere, the wildlife of these areas, especially birds, frequently enter the towns. It would be advantageous therefore, not to exclude the biosphere from the town but rather to include the town into the biosphere as a Transition Zone 3. This would mean that the residents of these towns could be made more aware of their environment, and could be encouraged to plant indigenous plants in their gardens. This would extend the range of the indigenous birds, etc. into the towns, thereby reducing the impact of the town on the environment.

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DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING POSSIBLE BIOSPHERE ZONES

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200\230 Agricultural Development

From the research and observations undertaken by members of the DDA, it would appear as though the income from agricultural production could increase from +R400 million per annum in 1991 to R600 million per annum in 1996.

The very first problem that would arise in achieving these growth objectives, would be the ability of the authorities to provide sufficient water.

Two questions are raised in the report, namely: how could agricultural development of this magnitude be accommodated in context of environmental considerations and what steps could be taken to address the socio-economic needs and aspirations of the community in context of such growth?

As is the case with the environment, it is proposed that the impact of possible growth and development scenarios be considered in context of the biosphere and bioregional principles summarized in Section II.

Tourism Promotion

Much is being said about the increasing role of tourism in the South African economy. It is estimated that approximately 1,0 million foreign tourists visited S.A. during 1990 (approximately 50% of these tourists were from Africa). In this time the tourism sector of the economy generated an estimated R2,500 million (SATOUR) and provided more than 300 000 employment opportunities.

The main attraction for tourists visiting South Africa is the environment and natural features, with big game by far the most important attraction. The latter has particular interest to the Hoedspruit district.

Considering the fact that the tourism industry is the fastest growing industry in the world (estimated at 5% per annum), and that the growth in eco-tourism as a sector of the tourism industry both domestic and foreign, could be considered one of the pillars of the Hoedspruit district's economy, it stands to reason that the DDA should focus on enhancing the potential of this sector of the district's economy.

In the report attention is drawn to the findings of the Board of Trade and Industry "Investigation Into The Tourism Industry" (1992), the recommendations of SATOUR and the Development Bank in their report "Strategic Framework For Tourism Development In South Africa" and the Government's commitments as per the "White Paper On Tourism" of 1992 in order to formulate local policy and strategy.

Of particular importance is the provisions made in the White paper for an "Action Plan" to be driven by the South African Tourism Board in close co-

operation with the private sector (especially the Tourism Liason Council and Regional Tourism Bodies).

In terms of this Action Plan, statutory public bodies and administrators will maintain control of the countries Unique Selling Features (USF) and conservation areas are to be classified into the following categories for the purpose of environmental management and tourism development.

Category A : Conservation areas classified as national parks and national botanical gardens

Category B . Other parks, nature conservation areas and botanical gardens of regional importance

OTHER CONSERVATION AREAS

Category C : Conservation areas such as State controlled dams where the private sector can be involved in development

Category D : Areas in the hands of the private sector

In particular provision is also made for the following in the White paper.

- The Department of Environment Affairs will be responsible for classifying these areas according to a clear set of guidelines, many of which are already internationally recognised.

Government will consider the allocation of additional funds to enable the Department of Environment Affairs to appoint suitably qualified personnel to carry out the tasks flowing from the White Paper.

The Department of Environment Affairs will investigate the possibility of closer co-operation between the National Parks Board, other nature conservation authorities and the Board of the National Botanical Institute responsible for the management of the National Botanical Gardens, in view of the latter's important contribution to international tourism through research and protection of South Africa's flora.

The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) will finance the cost of land, infrastructure and accommodation involved in projects for the expansion of tourist facilities within, or adjacent to parks of the National Parks Board, the Natal Parks Board, the Conservation Authorities of the provinces and self-governing states and private enterprise. Financing will be available for the establishment of facilities, including hotels, relying on parks and reserves for the viability of their undertakings. Applications will be considered on a project-by-project basis subject to the

- establishment of commercial viability and the promotion of commercialisation based on sound business principles, including, where appropriate, the involvement of private enterprise. The financing of accommodation facilities will be at normal IDC rates and financial packages will be structured to accommodate the requirements of individual projects. Risk sharing will be considered to actively promote development undertakings by both private enterprise and the conservation authorities.

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SECTION IV CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In determining the actions and options relating to the involvement of Hoedspruit DDA in planning for the future of the district, the following considerations were put forward in the report.

The planning process will be guided by the constitutional/transition process.

In order for the Association's contribution to the planning of the district to be constructive, the Association will have to co-operate and be involved in present and future planning initiatives of Community Based Organisations (CBO'S) in the district.

As a constituted part of the Regional and National Development Advisory bodies to government, the Association will have to direct its actions through the RDAC (G) to the Northern Transvaal Regional Services Council.

The Association will have to obtain clarity on the organisational and statutory planning structure within which the Association could function as far as forward planning is concerned. In this regard, the following main options could be considered, namely:

Â® The preparation of a formal Structure Plan for the district in terms of the Physical Planning Act of 1991.

Extending the scope of the strategic planning study "Towards a Coherent Development Strategy for Region G" to include Hoedspruit District as a more detailed and geographically focussed component of the Region G study.

It is considered advantageous that a formal structure plan (or similar) be prepared for the district in the future. However, considering the effects of the constitutional process on the planning process and the need to have broad-based community support for the legislation within which planning takes place, we would advise that a formal structure plan (or similar) be considered only after constitutional agreement has been reached and accepted legislation is in place.

The option to extend the scope of the strategic planning study "Towards a Coherent Development Strategy for Region G" to include Hoedspruit district was considered to be the most favourable option to follow. In terms of the priorities identified by the DDA it was advised that:

" focus be placed on the Environment, Agricultural Development and Tourism as a first phase of study and;

the Region G study addresses the application of Bioregional Planning Principles as per Section 11 and Section 11 of the report.

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It was further advised that Geographic Information Systems (G.I.S.) technology be employed to develop a data base. The information and knowledge gained in the planning study could then be transferred and incorporated into future planning tasks.

Considering the fundamental role that the National Parks Board is playing in conservation and development of the area, and specifically the decisive contribution the Kruger National Park is making to the economic development of the district, it is proposed in the report that this document be submitted to the National Parks Board. It is further recommended that the possibility to establish a standing committee be investigated to facilitate further co-operation between the National Parks Board and the DDA.

Specific Proposals By Hoedspruit DDA

Blyde River Catchment Study:

Hoedspruit DDA has resolved that urgent attention needs to be given to the long term planning of the Blyde River catchment.

This proposed study should include:

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)

Planning for Municipal water needs of Hoedspruit, Phalaborwa and Namagale towns and for the needs of the Kruger National Park. Provision in this study must also be made for the future water needs of the Acornhoek Municipal District, with special attention to the Tintswalo Hospital complex.]

The complication of data to quantify irrigation needs of the Blyde Canal System and the proposed Olifants Citrus Irrigation Scheme.

It is our contention that present water facilities and infrastructures are not catering for present needs, let alone future needs, and that a future dam site is needed on the Blyde River, thus enlarging storage capacity and creating a potential hydro-electric generation scheme for the Mapulaneng and Mhala districts of Gazankulu and Lebowa.

The incorporation of the Klaserie River Catchment into this study. This once vital perennial river has all but dried up due to ill advised and inappropriate planning, forestry malpractice and mismanagement. Urgent attention must be given to the management of this resource. Urban Design for Hoedspruit Town:

Upgrading of the airport to include reception, administration and parking facilities.

Landscaping and reticulation of traffic and pedestrians in the town. Establishment of low cost housing development.

Establishment of light industry sites.

Â®= Naphuno Irrigation Scheme:

Addressing underdevelopment in neighbouring communities. The existing Olifants River Catchment Study should, in the opinion of Hoedspruit DDA, investigate the incorporation of an irrigation scheme for Naphuno district of Lebowa.

g Enhancement and utilisation of natural areas:

Falling within the Hoedspruit ward is the much discussed potential Contractual National Park west of the Kruger National Park. It is proposed by Hoedspruit DDA that they could assist in deliberations and negotiations aimed at achieving this ideal and to encourage the sustainable utilization of this natural protected area.

o Formal Application to Register a Biosphere Reserve:

Emphasis is placed on steps that need to be taken to lay the foundations for the registration of an internationally recognised biosphere reserve(s) for the district and the region in terms of the guidelines set out under Section II, paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6, and Section I, paragraph 1.2 of the report.

In the report it is recognised that at present, South Africa is excluded from the above-mentioned United Nations Bioregional programmes. However, it could be expected that South Africa would be able to take part in these international programmes in the foreseeable future. It is therefore urgent that the necessary preparatory work be undertaken in this interim period to ensure that the district and the region is able to effectively take part in these internationally recognised programmes when the opportunity arises in the future.

Furthermore, it is stressed that there is an urgent need to make immediate and tangible progress in establishing sound sustainable development

strategies for the region. The United Nations models provide a practical and efficient framework for these strategies.

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