



Garden Route Environmental Forum (GREF) Annual Key stakeholder report-back event, 13 December 2023 – Fairy Knowe Hotel

Theme: *Celebrating conservation in the Garden Route*

Programme

**** Notes for speakers:**

- Please note that due to time constraints, speakers are implored to strictly stick to set time limits, especially when making use of PowerPoint slides
- Where possible, speakers are requested to provide presentations to the Secretariat before the event

08:30-9:00 Registration & Coffee/Tea

SESSION 1 *Facilitator:* Mr Cobus Meiring, Programme Director, Garden Route Environmental Forum (GREF)

TIME	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
09:00	Welcome and Introduction	Ald. Memory Booysen, GRDM Executive Mayor
09:10	Video Clip from Film Commission on sites in the Garden Route	
09:20	The outstanding SaveWild initiative in Wilderness	Mr Mike von der Heyde, Environmentalist, Wilderness
09:45	Western Cape Department of Agriculture forges new partnerships for opportunities in climate change research, capacity building and adaptive practices	Prof Stephanie Midgley, Specialist Scientist for Climate Change, Research and Technology Development Services, Western Cape Department of Agriculture
10:10	Addressing burning environmental issues in the region	Dr Arné Witt, Regional (Africa, Asia and Caribbean) IAS Coordinator for CABI

Tea break: 10:35 – 10:55

SESSION 2 *Facilitator: Ms Pamela Booth, Manager Environmental Planning, Knysna Municipality*

TIME	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
10:55	The role of conservation value areas in forestry (PG Bison's Contribution)	Mr Heine Muller, Project Consultant: South Cape Forests - PG Bison
11:20	Presentation and Clip from elephant research	Mr Ryan Davy, Researcher
11:45	Monitoring, evaluation and learning in the wildlife arena	Prof Christo Fabricius, Sustainability Research Unit, Nelson Mandela University
12:10	Saving Knysna Sand Fynbos	Dr Dave Edge, Brenton Blue
12:35	State of rehabilitation of former plantation areas (exit areas)	Mr Johan Baard, Scientist: GIS & Vegetation Ecology, SANParks

13:00 – 13:45 Lunch

SESSION 3 *Facilitator: Mr Japie Buckle, Managing Director, Hive Ecosystems*

TIME	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
13:45	Report-back from Knysna and Heli-hacking in conservation areas	Ms Pamela Booth, Manager Environmental Planning, Knysna Municipality
14:10	Plett whale heritage site accreditation	Ms Patty Butterworth, CEO Plett Tourism Association
14:35	Marketing the Garden Route as a premier birding destination	Mr Christiaan Viljoen, Curator at the Garden Route Botanical Garden (GRBG)
15:00	Monitoring and measuring Air Quality in the Garden Route	Dr Johann Schoeman Pr. Eng Streets & Stormwater / Project Planning & Management, GRDM
15:25	Closing Remarks	GRAF Secretariat / Mr Gerhard Otto, Head of Garden Route District Municipality's Disaster Management Centre, George District Municipality