

Executive Summary

Introduction

Management requires explicit operational goals, the means to know if those goals are being achieved, and institutional structures that can adapt management techniques and protocols to new goals, information and data (Christensen, 1997). Auditing the effects of management decisions in the context of the management goals is necessary to evaluate the extent to which those goals are being met (Rogers and Biggs, 1999).

Goal Maintenance System

A Goal Maintenance System (GMS) is a tool to help managers understand, manage and improve operations. It is a means of monitoring and auditing progress, to check how well the organisation is meeting its conservation goals, and to reveal when improvements to operations are necessary. The protocol developed in this study provides a disciplined, systematic approach to enable the development of a GMS (Chapter Two) which encourages commitment from all stakeholders. However, each organisation is unique and so should follow its own path in developing a Goal Maintenance System.

Prototype GMS for the control of Riverine Alien Vegetation

Invasive alien plants are considered to be the single most important threat to the biodiversity of the Kruger National Park (Braack, 1997). Alien species, particularly plants, are increasing in abundance and frequency in the KNP with 214 species recorded to date. Some of these invasive plant species, such as *Lantana camara* and *Opuntia stricta* have already invaded thousands of hectares of land, forming impenetrable thickets in places. Alien aquatic weeds (*Azolla*, *Eichornia*, *Pistia* and *Salvinia*) have also formed dense mats on various water bodies throughout the KNP.

The Kruger National Park Rivers Research Programme decided to focus attention on alien vegetation along riverine areas in developing a protocol for the GMS. Although the development of the Alien Vegetation GMS is still in progress, the available details are presented in Chapter Two.

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