

AGENDA

FIRST PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

VENUE: Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA & T)
Directorate: Antarctica and Islands
8th Floor Conference Room (Rm 813)
Fedlife Forum Building
cnr Pretorius and van der Walt Streets
PRETORIA, 0002

DATE: 17 - 18 April 1996

TIME: 10:00

1. WELCOME AND OPENING
2. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE *Doc. 2*
3. TERMS OF REFERENCE / FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE *Doc. 3*
4. MANAGEMENT PLAN *Doc. 4*
 - 4.1 Zoning of the Prince Edward Islands (*Prof S L Chown*) *Doc. 4.1*
 - 4.2 Increasing Public Awareness / Education Policy (p. 59) *Doc. 4.2*
 - 4.3 International Cooperation (pp. 61-62)
 - 4.4 Printing / Format / Cover Page
 - 4.5 Appointment of "Conservation Officers"
5. PERMITS ISSUED FOR MARION ISLAND RELIEF VOYAGE: APRIL/MAY 1996
 - 5.1 Entry Permits:

<i>Mr J A Dreyer</i>	<i>(Officer-in-Charge: DEA & T)</i>
<i>Mr S Morrison</i>	<i>(Department of Public Works)</i>
<i>Maj A Stroebe</i>	<i>(South African Air Force)</i>
<i>Dr V J Miller</i>	<i>(Medical Doctor)</i>
<i>Messrs J Simmons & D Coleman</i>	<i>(Chefs)</i>
<i>Chaplain F Tereblanche</i>	
 - 5.2 Research Permits:

<i>Mr P King</i>	<i>(South African Weather Bureau)</i>
<i>Mr S M Ferreira</i>	<i>(University of Pretoria)</i>
<i>Prof V R Smith</i>	<i>(University of the Orange Free State)</i>
<i>Mr K Rice</i>	<i>(University of Natal, Durban)</i>
 - 5.3 Collection Permits:

<i>Dr M N Bester</i>	<i>(University of Pretoria)</i>
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- 5.4 **Entry & Research Permits:**
 - Mr D Yelverton* (Marion 53)
 - Mr P M J Smal* (Marion 52)
 - Captain B van Oord* (mv S A Agulhas)

- 5.5 **Research & Collection Permits:**
 - Prof S L Chown* (University of Pretoria)
 - Mr B M Dyer* (Sea Fisheries Research Institute)
 - Dr J C Boelhouwers* (University of the Western Cape)
 - Mr D C Nel* (University of Cape Town)

- 5.6 **Entry, Research & Collection Permits:**
 - Dr E A Pakhomov* (Rhodes University)

- 6. **REQUESTS TO VISIT THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS**
 - 6.1 **Zegrahm Expeditions** *Doc. 6.1*
 - 6.2 **Starlight Cruises** *Doc. 6.2*

- 7. **FINAL REPORT: MOUSE WORKSHOP** (*Prof S L Chown*) *Doc. 7*

- 8. **ERADICATION OF *AGROSTIS GIGANTIA* ON MARION ISLAND** *Doc. 8*

- 9. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES TASK GROUP MEETING OF 15 AUGUST 1995**
 - 9.1 **Monitoring of Experiments** *Doc. 9.1*

- 10. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANTARCTIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 20 FEBRUARY 1996** *Doc. 10*
 - 10.1 **Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting Information Paper: "Prince Edward Islands Management Plan"**
 - 10.2 **Workshop to discuss the Management Plan**
 - 10.3 **Declaration of Marion Island as a World Heritage Site**

- 11. **UPGRADING OF BUILDINGS ON MARION ISLAND**

- 12. **GENERAL**
 - 12.1 **Waste Disposal (specifically Chemical Waste) at the Prince Edward Islands**
 - 12.2 **Statements on accommodation at the Islands**
 - 12.3 **Demarcation of Routes with respect to Zones**

- 13. **CLOSING**

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PEIMC) HELD ON
17 - 18 APRIL 1996 AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND TOURISM (DEA&T) ROOM 813, FEDLIFE FORUM BUILDING,
315 PRETORIUS STREET, PRETORIA**

PRESENT

Prof S L Chown (Chairman)	University of Pretoria
Dr R Randall (for Dr A J Hall-Martin)	National Parks Board
Dr S Jackson	University of Cape Town
Mr J C Loock	National Monument's Council
Mr D J van Schalkwyk	DEA&T
Dr D G M Miller	DEA&T
Ms C A Jacobs (Secretariat)	DEA&T
Mr L E Chuene (Minutes Secretary)	DEA&T

APOLOGIES

Dr A Berruti	BirdLife South Africa
Dr A J Hall-Martin	National Parks Board
Prof V R Smith	University of the Orange Free State

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The Chairman welcomed everyone present, especially Dr Jackson and Mr Loock who were not previously involved in drawing up the Prince Edward Islands Management Plan (PEIMP). He offered apologies for Dr Hall-Martin, stating that Dr Randall was attending in his place, as well as for Dr Berruti and Prof Smith. He pointed out that it was important that these meetings were fully attended to see that, as a Special Nature Reserve, Marion and Prince Edward Island were managed correctly due to their pristine status. He added that there was a request to have Marion declared a World Heritage Site.

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 4.6 Policy on Tourism
- 4.7 Establishment of Marion as a Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) site
- 12.1 Waste Disposal (specifically Chemical Waste) at the Islands
- 12.2 Statements on accommodation at the Islands
- 12.3 Demarcation of Routes with regard to Zones

2. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairman mentioned that external input from a non-Governmental Organization was valuable, and that in this regard Dr Berruti had knowledge of the Islands.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE / FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The following amendments (indicated in bold/italics) were to be made to document 3:

- 3. '...(SACAR) *concerning their management impact*'
- 4. '...SACAR *with regard to their impact on the environment*'
- 5. '...leaders *in terms of environmental impacts*'
- 4. '...specific *management objectives*...'
- 15. '...General, *in consultation with Sea Fisheries*, on...'

4. MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.1 Zoning of the Prince Edward Islands

The Chairman reported that the zones had been identified in consultation with Prof Smith, Dr M N Bester and Mr J Cooper, and the relevant permits for the 1996 Marion Island relief voyage issued accordingly. He summarized that permits for 14 days for walking trips by overwintering expedition members were issued for Zone 3, that walks should be undertaken by groups of at least 2 persons for safety reasons and that Zone 4 included the whole of Prince Edward, as well as areas that were not geographically fixed, e.g. Gentoo Penguin, Southern Giant Petrel and Wandering Albatross colonies. He added that, according to Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) requirements, these colonies needed to be monitored and that permits would be issued accordingly, that walking routes around these colonies would be demarcated for the coming relief voyage, and that Zone 4 also included the historical sites on Marion.

Dr Miller mentioned that in Zone 4 the wording of the waste disposal policy should be amended and cross-referenced with the "Waste and Sewage Disposal Policy" on p. 45 of the Management Plan. The wording was finalised as follows (indicated in bold/italics):

p. 43, point 4.4, para. 4:

'...Director-General. The policy in terms of Waste and Sewage Disposal should be maximally applied, and every attempt should be made to avoid the introduction of alien/foreign material or waste (see Section 6).'

p. 45, last objective to be added to "Policy" of point 6:

' - To ensure that the above objectives are stringently adhered to in Special Entry Areas (see Section 4.4).'

4.2 Increasing Public Awareness / Education Policy

The Chairman stated that it was important to get the Management Plan published and available nationally and internationally as soon as possible. He enquired as to media coverage, and Mr van Schalkwyk reported that the Plan would be referred to DEA&T's media section to set up a planned programme on how to publicize the document, i.e. exposure on 50/50, etc. Dr Miller added that it was important to target the youth in a media campaign, e.g. through Eco-Vision.

Mr van Schalkwyk informed that a draft media plan would be circulated to the committee members for comment.

The Chairman requested that the committee read through the latest revision of the Management Plan, within one week, for final comments which should be passed on to Ms Jacobs for inclusion in the document.

Dr Jackson enquired as to what team training involved. The Chairman informed that expedition members were briefed on the Management Plan, with talks by the Chief Scientist and Officer-in-Charge *en route* to Marion. He added that in terms of the team members, awareness was quite high.

4.3 International Cooperation

The Chairman read aloud a letter received from Mr J Cooper enquiring as to the scheduled publication of the Plan and undertook to inform him that the committee was working towards 30 June 1996. Mr van Schalkwyk reported that Revision 10 of the Plan was available, and that he would take a copy to the coming Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM). He added that the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) did not need to address the Management Plan. Dr Miller confirmed that the ATS only needed to be informed of the document, but advised that it was necessary to get the Plan into the Antarctic information system in terms of the electronic network, i.e. the International Centre for Antarctic Information and Research (ICAIR). Mr van Schalkwyk added that this could be done *via* the Antarctic Managers Electronic Network (AMEN) system which was on the World Wide Web.

Dr Miller also suggested a personal touch, i.e. delivering the Plan, per hand by the trade attachés, to New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Britain, France and Norway, as fellow sub-Antarctic countries. Mr van Schalkwyk mentioned all managers of Antarctic Programmes should be included as well. Dr Miller advised that a few copies should also be forwarded to the Director-General, Senator S P Grové, etc. It was felt that these were very powerful signals.

4.4 Printing / Format / Cover Page

Mr van Schalkwyk suggested that as there would be changes to the Plan from time to time, that it should be printed in a ring-binder format to incorporate these changes, i.e. replacement of pages whenever necessary. The Chairman added that it must be understood that this was a working document and not a book, but with a nice cover. A plastic cover, in colour, was suggested with 4-5 pictures superimposed on a map of the Islands, e.g. scientists working, a Wandering Albatross, SA Agulhas, plants, etc. without it being too complicated. It was decided that the DEA&T's media section should be approached for assistance with the cover design.

4.5 Appointment of "Conservation Officers"

The Chairman advised that Deon Nel, a biologist on the coming relief expedition, had been appointed as an *ad hoc* Conservation Officer in support of the Team Leader for the coming expedition, but that a permanent appointment needed to be looked into.

Mr van Schalkwyk reported that the Assistant Director post of the Directorate: Antarctica and Islands had been advertised for this purpose and would be readvertised shortly. He informed the committee that, at present, the monthly progress on the implementation of the Plan would be forwarded to himself and the Chairman.

Dr Jackson enquired as to whether there were any record-keeping systems at present, i.e. number of birds killed, oil spillages, etc. Mr van Schalkwyk affirmed that there was such a system, and that reports were to be submitted to the Department within 30 days of return from the Island. The Chairman added that it was acceptable for the Conservation Officer to submit reports of the monthly major occurrences on the Island.

Dr Randall enquired whether an Environmental Management System (EMS) was in place, and whether an Environmental Audit had been conducted.

Mr van Schalkwyk informed that one was available for Antarctica, but still needed to be implemented in this case. The Chairman added that this would hopefully be soon.

4.6 Policy on Tourism

The Chairman informed that in accordance with the Environment Conservation Act, no tourists were permitted at present. Dr Miller added that a loophole had been created in the Management Plan in terms of the "Educational Policy", as an educational aspect had been essential, and that it was not constitutional not to allow visitors to Marion Island as it was South African property.

Dr Randall emphasized that this was a sensitive issue, but that as the policy appeared in the Plan and was approved by the Director-General, no visits should be approved at present. The Chairman added that in terms of specifics, visits could be turned down as 40 people ashore at a time, as requested in point 6, could not be accommodated in the case of an emergency.

Mr van Schalkwyk pointed out that Minister D J de Villiers of DEA&T was pro-tourism and the legal aspects in this regard needed to be determined. He felt that potentially awkward situations, which could occur in the future in terms of this policy, should be pre-empted by this committee soliciting an independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the impact of limited tourism to the Island, the determination of the quota of visitors permitted and the effects of such impact, in order to formulate a policy in this regard. A sub-committee was to be established for this purpose, comprising Dr Jackson as the Chairperson and the following members: Mr P E Gildenhuys (Environmental Officer), Mr R N Skinner (DEA&T), Prof Hattingh (University of Pretoria's Eco-Tourism Group), Prof Smith and Prof Chown.

On a practical level, he indicated that the facilities on Marion and access to the Island also needed to be investigated, and that tour operators should be requested to submit an impact assessment of their own, including number of persons, time ashore, etc., as well as providing an indication of their financial responsibilities, contributions, etc. Dr Randall felt that the Minister's policy should be determined first, and if he was pro-tourism, then conduct an EIA. The committee agreed that this only applied to Zone 2 on Marion, and that no tourist visits would be permitted to Prince Edward. Mr van Schalkwyk enquired as to whether the provisions of the Territorial Waters Act would have an effect. Dr Miller informed that this was not a problem and that ships could come in really close to the shore.

Dr Miller suggested a Tourism Workshop for scientists and tour operators be held in the interests of transparency, and that as Mr Cooper had visited many sub-Antarctic islands, he was ideal to consult in this regard.

4.7 Establishing Marion Island as an LTER site

Dr Miller felt that someone should be appointed to look into this matter and develop a comprehensive proposal. On an enquiry as to the time-frames, he informed that this process would take 1-1½ years, as a South African and not a United States of America LTER site was required.

Mr van Schalkwyk mentioned that once the committee had been identified, he would obtain Dr F Hanekom's approval, as South African Committee for Antarctic Research (SACAR) Chairman.

The Chairman informed that Prof Smith was the only one with LTER data and requested Dr Miller to provide a list of names, including himself, to serve on the committee to investigate the establishing of Marion as an LTER site. He was also requested to draw up the "terms of reference" in this regard, and undertook to do so.

5. PERMITS ISSUED FOR MARION ISLAND RELIEF VOYAGE: APRIL/MAY 1996

A breakdown of the permits issued for the above-mentioned voyage was provided in the agenda. Mr van Schalkwyk reported that all the SACAR 3 forms received had been addressed in consultation with the Chairman, and the permits were amended, where necessary, and issued accordingly. Copies were available on request. The Management Plan included one example of each permit, but the Chairman pointed out that certain regulations were not covered by these permits and would therefore have to be amended from time to time. The following amendments were suggested:

- p. 60, 63 and 64 "...and/or *the* Prince Edward Islands during..." (delete "the" and "s" indicated in bold/italics)
- p. 61 "Island *and*/or Prince" (add "and" indicated in bold/italics)

Dr Miller emphasized that ethics also played a role and that any pain or adverse effects on animals was not acceptable. Mr van Schalkwyk agreed that a paragraph was to be added to the SACAR 1 project proposal form stating that all project leaders were connected to universities which had ethic policies which must be adhered to on the Islands as well. SACAR was to address this issue, in terms of it being each university's responsibility, and that each project leader should adhere to the ethics of his/her affiliated university. Dr Miller added that in terms of permitting, exemption was required from the Sea Fisheries Act, and that this could be arranged on an annual basis.

At this time the committee broke for lunch after which the Chairman thanked the Department for the lunch and congratulated Dr Miller on receiving the 1995 B P Antarctic Award.

6. REQUESTS TO VISIT THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS

- 6.1 **Zegrahm Expeditions**
6.2 **Starlight Cruises**

The Chairman summarized that the facilities to bring people ashore were not available at Ships' Cove, as suggested by Starlight Cruises; that the impact of tourists was not known; that there was no way to provide support in case of an emergency and that in the response to the tour operators it should be mentioned that we are not opposed to tourism and are investigating this avenue.

Dr Miller suggested that at some stage an observation system would have to be installed to monitor activities, as the committee was also responsible for the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Marion, but could not monitor ships beyond the horizon, i.e. on the high seas. Mr van Schalkwyk added that the South African Air Force (SAAF) could possibly assist in this regard and that this avenue should be explored. Dr Miller agreed that an aircraft flying over Marion on the date that Starlight Cruises was scheduled to go ashore (6 December 1996) would be effective.

The Chairman requested that Mr van Schalkwyk follow up the SAAF enforcement flyover on 6 December 1996. It was decided to inform both tour operators that, within the provisions of the Management Plan, they were not permitted to land on Marion, with no extended explanation. The Director-General (DEA&T) was to be informed of this, with the appropriate letters for his signature.

7. FINAL REPORT: MOUSE WORKSHOP

The Chairman reported that, as an introduced species, house mice were arguably having an impact on the terrestrial ecosystem at Marion Island. There were, however, two opposing views, with Prof Smith maintaining that the impact was significant, and Prof Van Aarde suggesting that the impact was not readily identifiable. The Chairman read aloud the Executive Summary on p. 2 of Document 7 in which it was suggested that the PEIMC look into establishing a working group on mice at Marion (reiterated in point 5 on p.14 of this document).

Dr Miller emphasized that "the nature of mouse population fluctuations and the impact of mice on the system", last paragraph of p. 13, should be established to allow us to look into eradication elsewhere. The Chairman reported that the Australians were developing efficient rodent viruses and that Prof van Aarde was researching this at present. Mr van Schalkwyk enquired regarding control measures, and the Chairman informed that it was not desirable to drop bait, but that Prof van Aarde could look into other options.

Mr van Schalkwyk requested that the Chairman take up the matter with Prof van Aarde and that he would inform Prof Nel, the Biological Sciences Task Group (BSTG) Chairman, that Prof van Aarde's group was looking into these measures, at the request of the PEIMC Chairman. The Chairman added that it was important that two areas were covered, i.e. the mice (van Aarde) and their impact (Smith), and that he would contact Prof Smith in this regard.

8. ERADICATION OF *AGROSTIS GIGANTEA* ON MARION ISLAND

The Chairman summarized an extract from a paper on the introduced *Agrostis* species on Marion Island by Dr N J M Gremmen, the authority on these species at the Prince Edward Islands. He added that Mr Gremmen had discovered *A. gigantea* on Marion and that it had only recently been established - early 1990's. He informed that the grass only covered a small area at present and was reproducing vegetatively, with no seeds at the moment.

To eradicate the grass the area would have to be covered with a dark tarpaulin for one year, but that everything underneath it would die as well, or alternatively sprayed with a non-residual herbicide. The Chairman stressed that this matter was urgent and that he would handle it in consultation with Prof Smith during the coming relief voyage, if this was acceptable to the committee. The committee supported this proposal, with the herbicide option, as according to Mr Cooper the grass had spread too much to cover with black plastic. Mr van Schalkwyk added that a formal response was to be drafted to Mr Cooper. The remaining herbicide was to be left on Marion in case more *A. gigantea* was discovered, under the care of Deon Nel. The Chairman undertook to teach Mr Nel to identify and eradicate *A. gigantea* during the takeover.

9. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES TASK GROUP MEETING OF 15 AUGUST 1995**

9.1 **Monitoring of Experiments (Demography, climate change and life history styles of surface nesting of sea birds at Marion Island)**

The Chairman reported that serious problems had been experienced last year with stomach logger experiments being conducted on penguins, and that it must be made clear in the statement explaining the regulations of interim and final reports that such information must be included in these reports. Dr Miller undertook to take this matter up with the Sea Fisheries Ethics Committee.

The Chairman added that problems were experienced in Dr Bester's seal project as well. Mr van Schalkwyk felt that the power should be invested in this committee, in consultation of course, to make on-the-spot decisions in such instances, as in the penguin case no-one could be traced. The committee decided that the Marion team could contact the Chairman for urgent decisions.

10. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANTARCTIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 20 FEBRUARY 1996**

10.1 **Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting Information Paper: "Prince Edward Islands Management Plan"**

This matter was dealt with under point 4.3 (International Cooperation). Dr Miller added that he would submit a copy of the PEIMP to CCAMLR, and that by publishing this Management Plan, clarity regarding the dumping of waste, etc. would be achieved.

10.2 **Workshop to discuss the Management Plan**

Mr van Schalkwyk reported that the proposal of a workshop had originated from the Department of Foreign Affairs, who were not directly involved in the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP). The Chairman felt that this was a good idea which was to be followed up by DEA&T.

Mr van Schalkwyk added that discussions had been held with Senator Grové to make SANAP more visible in Parliament, and that DEA&T was to arrange for a number of experts from the Department to brief Parliament on SANAP in late August 1996. The committee felt that it was a good idea to hold such a briefing on the *SA Agulhas*. Mr van Schalkwyk informed that this briefing would include some background, the Management Plan and the then Antarctic Conventions Bill (now Antarctic Treaties Bill), which he hoped would be passed by 30 July 1996.

10.3 Declaration of Marion Island as a World Heritage Site

The Chairman suggested that a small working group be established to handle the declaration of Marion as a World Heritage Site. Mr van Schalkwyk undertook to set up this committee in conjunction with the Chairman and Geoff Cowen of DEA&T's Chief Directorate: Environmental Management.

Mr Looock enquired as to what was being done in terms of archaeological research. The Chairman responded that nothing much could be done if project proposals in this regard were not submitted, and Mr van Schalkwyk stated that the necessary SACAR 1 forms could be forwarded to him should he wish to submit a proposal.

Mr Looock continued that certain items that were removed from Marion should be returned to the Island, and the remaining items displayed at a museum in Cape Town. Mr van Schalkwyk added that this item was to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, and enquired as to which national body was responsible for archiving. Mr Looock replied none at present, but that the Cultural History Museum, by agreement with DEA&T, had been allowed to conduct the original survey and that some material was housed there. The committee requested Mr Looock to draw up a "master plan" on what to do and who to approach in this regard, and to submit it to Mr van Schalkwyk. He undertook to do so.

The meeting adjourned until 8:00 the following day.

11. UPGRADING OF BUILDINGS ON MARION ISLAND

Mr van Schalkwyk informed that Mr L Holtzhausen from the Department of Public Works (PWD) was the architect for the base on Marion, that all new buildings require the approval of the PEIMC prior to construction and that during the coming takeover an assessment of such requirements was to be undertaken, i.e. as there were a number of scattered buildings, it was to be determined which could be removed. The Chairman reported that during the coming takeover Mr J A Dreyer (Officer-in-Charge) and himself would, in terms of the concept master plan for Marion Island, determine which buildings were structurally unsound now and which would need attention within 5 years.

Mr van Schalkwyk continued that the Weather Bureau had requested the backup hydrogen generator be placed in the upper-air building. This request was not approved for structural and safety reasons. Placement in a container was proposed and Mr Dreyer stated that it would be decided during the takeover where it would be placed, and should this not be possible, enough spare cylinders would be taken along.

The Chairman requested that Mr Dreyer consult with the Weather Bureau and finalise the matter. He added that in terms of the concept master plan, he and Mr Dreyer would look at what was required and decide on which outer buildings, aerials, etc. may be removed. Dr Jackson enquired whether the removal of antennas could receive priority, due to the bird fatalities caused by them. The Chairman affirmed that it would. Dr Miller asked whether the field huts would be checked. The Chairman replied that they would and that they would be removed if they were not required. Mr van Schalkwyk requested Mr Purnell from the PWD supply DEA&T with the original copy of the concept master plan to include in the PEIMP by 22 April 1996.

Mr Looock advised that, from an archaeological point of view, an opinion on the removal of buildings should be obtained from the Cultural History Museum in Cape Town. The Chairman requested Mr Looock to see to it that such a proposal was submitted to Mr van Schalkwyk. He undertook to do so.

12. GENERAL

12.1 Waste Disposal (specifically Chemical Waste) at the Prince Edward Islands

The Chairman reported that polystyrene was to be avoided and the use of plastic reduced, as well as being returned to South Africa. He added that paper and kitchen waste were to be incinerated, and that this was to receive priority, as the current incinerator could not handle all the waste. All poultry waste was to be packaged and returned to South Africa.

A document on how waste was handled in Antarctica was distributed to the committee, with Mr van Schalkwyk mentioning that everything was colour-coded and that the Department had a contract with Waste-Tech to handle all the waste returned to South Africa. He continued that all the details were contained in the Code of Conduct for SANAE which was handed to all expedition members and that if the regulations were not adhered to, bonuses were not paid out, and those persons contravening the regulations would not be considered for future expeditions.

Mr Dreyer informed the committee that all waste was separated on Marion for return to South Africa and that additional empty containers would be left on the Island for further separation of additional waste. The Chairman informed that classification of chemical types needed to be done to inform the expedition members which containers (metal/plastic) could be utilised for used photographic chemical storage and return. He continued that in terms of radioactive material, none was going down during the coming takeover, except by Dr E A Pakhomov for use on the *S A Agulhas*. He confirmed that the Antarctic Waste Management Plan dealt with most waste aspects well, except for the classification of research laboratory chemicals.

Dr Jackson enquired regarding radioactive material handling on Marion, and the drawing up of a laboratory use protocol. The Chairman replied that when an application was received to use radioactive material, the protocol would be requested from the user. Dr Randall enquired as to whether an oil spill contingency plan existed. Mr van Schalkwyk replied that one was being finalised, with the biggest problem being a spill on the Island during the year and not during the transfer of fuel during takeovers.

He added that the ship would ensure that proper training was given to its staff to handle oil spills onboard. It was decided that a containment wall was necessary around the tanks on the Island to prevent seepage/spreading of potential leaks. The Chairman informed that at present grey water and human sewage went untreated directly into the sea. Mr van Schalkwyk advised that a macerator to break up and treat waste water should be considered and that to this end PWD would be requested to determine the flow rate for the size/capacity required. The Chairman added that if such a new sewage system was considered, the sewage could freeze in winter, and this factor should be considered.

12.2 Statements on accommodation at the Islands

The Chairman informed that as there were 32 rooms, the maximum persons that could be accommodated was 64. In the Management Plan it was originally decided to limit access to 50 persons, but with the number of approved projects it would be difficult to keep to this restriction. The Chairman continued that 64 persons could be easily accommodated, and Dr Miller added that access would be regulated by permit procedure. He also undertook to provide Ms Jacobs with the details for the revision of the Management Plan accordingly.

12.3 Demarcation of Routes with respect to Zones

The Chairman advised that, together with Mr D C Nel, a standard route on Marion would be demarcated during the coming takeover, and that people would be advised not to walk through Elephant Seal areas, etc.

Mr van Schalkwyk pointed out that the policy on access to Prince Edward Island needed to be determined, i.e. frequency and duration of visits. The Chairman added that there were no alien species on Prince Edward at present, but that the risk increased with every visit, and that originally it had been decided on one visit every five years with 2-3 persons for two days. Dr Miller felt that with more regular visits, but not more than one visit per annum pending the approval of a scientific project, something could be picked up before it spread, which would not be possible with one visit every five years. He emphasized that all mitigating measures were nevertheless to be stringently applied and verified, as Prince Edward was to be kept pristine in order to compare its processes to those of Marion.

The committee agreed that visits for scientific purposes could be allowed, with the provision that applications were to be directed *via* the relevant Task Group to this committee for approval. It was finally decided on no more than one visit per year by 6 persons for 4 days. Mr van Schalkwyk mentioned that the guidelines for these visits needed to be updated for strict adherence to the measures and the Chairman concluded that everything must be checked thoroughly prior to landing at Prince Edward, that these measures must be applied stringently and that this must be made clear to the scientific parties and Officer-in-Charge. The Management Plan was to be amended accordingly.

With regard to the request in point 4.7 of these minutes, the LTER "terms of reference" Dr Miller had drawn up was acceptable to the committee and was to be forwarded to the Biological Sciences Task Group (BSTG) via the SACAR Chairman, Dr Hanekom. It was decided that the Chairman, Dr Miller and Prof Smith were to coordinate the establishment of Marion as an LTER-site.

With reference to point 8, the Chairman informed the committee that he had consulted with Prof Smith who had agreed with the herbicide-method of eradicating *A. gigantea* and that this would be done during the coming takeover.

Mr van Schalkwyk mentioned that this committee should meet after the Marion takeover, in order to report back to the Director-General before 31 December 1996, and again before the Marion takeover next year. He added that any SACAR 3 project proposals not received in time would not be considered for permits. He suggested that the Management Plan should be revised to include the delegation of the power to issue permits for the Prince Edward Islands from the Director-General to the Director: Antarctica and Islands in order to expedite matters. The committee agreed with this proposal.

Dr Randall advised that it was customary to include a list of names of people involved in the compilation of the Management Plan in the document. This was also accepted.

Dr Miller felt that the *ad hoc* co-opting of specialists onto this committee be left open for legal advice, etc.

12. CLOSING

It was decided to hold the next meeting on 25 or 26 September 1996, and next year's meeting during February 1997.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation and input and Mr van Schalkwyk for the lunch. He added that all comments on the Management Plan were to be forwarded to Ms Jacobs by 26 April 1996.



CHAIRMAN

11/9/96
DATE:

AGENDA
of the
SECOND PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

VENUE: Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA & T)
Directorate: Antarctica and Islands
8th Floor Conference Room (Rm 813)
Fedlife Forum Building
cnr Pretorius and van der Walt Streets
PRETORIA, 0002

DATE: 11 September 1996

TIME: 08:00

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

**2. MINUTES OF THE FIRST PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (17 - 18 APRIL 1996) *Doc. 2***

Matters arising:

- 2.1 Progress on printing of Management Plan (par. 4.4)
- 2.2 Establishment of a sub-committee to investigate the impact of tourism to Marion Island (par.4.6(3))
- 2.3 Determination of Minister Z P Jordan's policy on tourism (par. 4.6(4))
- 2.4 Tourism Workshop (par. 4.6(5))
- 2.5 Establishment of Marion Island as a LTER site (par.4.7) *Doc. 2.4*
- 2.6 SAAF enforcement flyover: 6 December 1996 (par. 6.1/6.2)
- 2.7 Establishment of a Working Group on mice at Marion Island (par. 7)
- 2.8 Workshop to discuss the Management Plan/SANAP (par. 10.2)
- 2.9 Declaration of Marion Island as a World Heritage Site (par. 10.3)
- 2.10 Waste disposal and incineration policy (par. 12.1)
- 2.11 Containment wall to prevent seepage on Marion Island (par.12.1(5))

**3. PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS MANAGEMENT REPORT:
APRIL - MAY 1996 RELIEF VOYAGE (*Prof S L Chown*) *Doc. 3***

- 3.1 Station inspection
- 3.2 *Agrostis gigantea* - status and actions
- 3.3 Implementation of the Management Plan
- 3.4 Management actions identified as priorities
 - Zone 1 (Scientific station)
 - Zone 4 (Special entry areas)
- 3.5 Concluding remarks

4. MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 4.1 Zoning of the Prince Edward Islands (*Mr D J van Schalkwyk*)
- 4.2 Increasing Public Awareness / Education Policy *Doc. 4.2*
- 4.3 Visitor frequency to Prince Edward Island
- 4.4 Environmental auditing of Marion Island/Appointment of Conservation Officer
- 4.5 Longline fishing close to Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

5. PERMIT ISSUED TO ENTER MARION ISLAND WATERS (5 - 6 AUGUST 1996)

- 5.1 *Vieirasa 12* under the command of Capt. Marcelo Smith (Argentina) *Doc. 5.1*

6. REQUESTS TO VISIT THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS

- 6.1 Michael Horan *Doc. 6.1*

7. NEW ITEMS

- 7.1 Items removed from Marion Island to be returned/displayed at a museum in Cape Town (*Mr J C Loock*)
- 7.2 "Master Plan" on national body responsible for archiving (*Mr J C Loock*)
- 7.3 Archaeology: Policy Document (*Mr J C Loock*)
- 7.4 Archaeological and Historical Research: Proposed research and conservation (*Mr J C Loock*)
- 7.5 Soil erosion on Marion Island (*Prof V R Smith*) *Doc. 7.5*
- 7.6 Rubble and building waste in Marion Island (*Prof V R Smith*) *Doc. 7.6*
- 7.7 Waste disposal on the *S A Agulhas* (*Prof V R Smith*) *Doc. 7.7*
- 7.8 Antennas and stay wires on Marion Island (*Prof V R Smith*) *Doc. 7.8*
- 7.9 Request for Petrel monitoring - Dr M Brooke (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 7.10 Request for copies on Management Plan (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 7.11 Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems (GCTE) and International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) interest in the Prince Edward Islands (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 7.12 Visit from New Zealand Environmental Officer (*Dr D G M Miller*)
- 7.13 Overflight of the Prince Edward Islands in the near future (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 7.14 Huts (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 7.15 Prince Edward Island Expedition (*Prof S L Chown*)

8. EXAMINATION OF PERMIT REQUESTS ON SACAR 1 FORMS AS FORWARDED BY BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES TASK GROUP MEETING, FOR FORWARDING TO SACAR MEETING (*Prof S L Chown*)

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10. CLOSING

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PEIMC)
HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 1996 AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
(DEA&T), ROOM 813, FEDLIFE FORUM BUILDING,
315 PRETORIUS STREET, PRETORIA**

PRESENT

Prof S L Chown (Chairman)	University of Pretoria
Dr R Randall (for Dr A J Hall-Martin)	National Parks Board
Dr S Jackson	University of Cape Town
Prof V R Smith	University of the Orange Free State
Mr J C Look	National Monument's Council
Mr D J van Schalkwyk	DEA&T
Dr D G M Miller	DEA&T
Ms C A Jacobs (Secretariat)	DEA&T
Mrs M E Modjadji (Minutes Secretary)	DEA&T

APOLOGIES

Dr A J Hall-Martin	National Parks Board
Dr A Berruti	BirdLife South Africa

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The Chairman welcomed everyone present, especially Prof Smith who had not attended the first meeting and Mrs Modjadji the minutes secretary.

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 7.12 Visit from New Zealand Environmental Officer
- 7.13 Overflight of the Prince Edward Islands (PEIs) in the near future
- 7.14 Huts
- 7.15 PEI expedition

2. MINUTES OF THE FIRST PEIMC MEETING (17-18 APRIL 1996)

There were no comments on these minutes and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman as an accurate reflection of the first PEIMC meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

2.1 Progress on printing of Management Plan

The Chairman reported that the Management Plan was almost ready to go to press, with the indication of Zone 4 on Figure 3 being the only outstanding item and which would be forwarded to the Department by Mr J Cooper. He continued that there was a change in format into a booklet form, as it was more substantial and appealing. Also, the photos originally suggested for the cover were to be replaced by a logo - two options had been received and DEA&T would finalise this matter. The figures for the Plan, drafted by the Department's Geographical Information Systems (GIS) section, were passed around for comments, which were to be forwarded to the Chairman.

2.2 Establishment of a sub-committee to investigate the impact of tourism to Marion Island

The Chairman gave a rundown of the members of the Tourism sub-committee, under the Chairpersonship of Dr Jackson. Dr Jackson had no comments at this stage. The Chairman felt it was important to schedule the first meeting quite quickly and suggested that a provisional agenda be drawn up. It was decided to schedule the meeting for the first week in November, to allow the Chairman to report to the Antarctic Management Committee (AMC) on 14 November 1996. The matter would be discussed further informally during lunch.

2.3 Determination of Minister Z P Jordaan's policy on tourism

Mr van Schalkwyk reported that the Minister was worried that tourists were the victims of a high crime rate.

He added that Minister Jordaan had a broader management style than Minister D J de Villiers. Prof Smith mentioned that Australia and New Zealand allowed tourism, and that if South Africa was to follow this trend, it could be financially beneficial to SANAP. Prof Chown asked whether the funds would go into the government system or into SANAP and Mr van Schalkwyk replied into the system at present, but that something could be arranged.

2.4 Tourism Workshop

The Chairman informed the committee that the idea of a tourism workshop had been delayed for the moment.

2.5 Establishment of Marion Island as an LTER site

The Chairman mentioned that Doc. 2.4 had been forwarded to the Biological Sciences Task Group (BSTG) for noting and emphasized that it was important that we establish a South African LTER site and not an American one, adding, however, that the USA was very keen on collaboration and willing to put money into it, and that US Dollar support would be good.

Dr Miller stated that we should look at our research and identify USA collaborators, and that the Gore/Mbeki accord would mean available funding if President Clinton was re-elected. He recommended two courses of action:

- * Establish formal contact with James Getes (coordinator for the LTER programme in the USA) and obtain the necessary criteria, etc. to become part of the LTER network, and
- * Get our scientists to review South Africa's information as far as it met these requirements and contact the USA for collaboration.

Mr van Schalkwyk felt that this committee should make an official recommendation to the South African Committee for Antarctic Research (SACAR) to accept this proposal. He also asked whether meteorological data could be linked to this process, and Dr Miller agreed that this was crucial. Prof Smith mentioned that as Mr P le Roux of the Weather Bureau had indicated that they were not obligated to make the data available, he was doing so at present.

Dr Miller felt that as the deficiencies had been highlighted, this framework should be used for the better utilization of data, and he was tasked to follow up on the matter and to draft a document in this regard to be presented to the USA.

2.6 SAAF enforcement flyover: 6 December 1996

Mr van Schalkwyk reported that the Director-General had had discussions with General Hechter of the South African Air Force (SAAF), and that such a flyover would cost R 48 000. This item was to be addressed under point 7.13.

2.7 Establishment of a Working Group on mice at Marion Island

The Chairman reported that more mice data was being collected as recommended at the Mice Workshop. He added that the density of mice on Marion was far greater than before, but that Prof R J van Aarde's group was looking into control measures, having sent serum overseas for virus screening, which was very expensive. In terms of establishing a Working Group on the impact of mice, he suggested that the committee wait for further information from the groups doing research on the island.

2.8 Workshop to discuss the Management Plan/SANAP

Prof Chown advised that this Workshop was pending the publication of the Management Plan, and Mr van Schalkwyk added that it was also waiting for the Antarctic Treaties Bill to be passed. He informed that the Bill had been recommended by the Full Senate and would be presented to the National Assembly on 9 October 1996. He felt that with the opening of the new SANAE IV base, they would be pressed for time, so it would be best to arrange the Workshop in 1997 on board the *S A Agulhas*.

2.9 Declaration of Marion Island as a World Heritage Site

Mr van Schalkwyk would follow up the matter and report back at the next meeting.

2.10 Waste disposal and incineration policy

2.11 Containment wall to prevent seepage on Marion Island

These items would be addressed in the Chairman's report of the past Marion Island relief voyage.

3. PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS MANAGEMENT REPORT: APRIL-MAY 1996 RELIEF VOYAGE

3.1 Station inspection

The Chairman provided a summary of his report on the 1996 Marion Island relief voyage and the various actions undertaken. He suggested the removal of the hydrogen generator due to the problem with the aluminium chips. This was supported by the committee. With regard to the sending of poultry to Marion and the threat of Newcastle's Disease, it was decided that an irradiation policy and the costs involved were to be ascertained. Dr Jackson was to determine the policy and DEA&T's Cape Town Office the costs involved. The Chairman also felt that, in terms of the buildings, this committee should recommend to the AMC that the routine level of maintenance on Marion Island be increased in whichever way they saw fit. The committee agreed.

3.2 *Agrostis gigantea* - status and actions

The Chairman reported that the patch of *A. gigantea* that Dr N Gremmen had identified on Marion was not as large as originally thought, and that it had been sprayed during the takeover with "Sting" donated by Monsanto and that Mr D Nel, the Conservation Officer on the island, had subsequently reported that everything in the area was dead, but that he would keep an eye on it. The Chairman undertook to send a report to Monsanto and to thank Mr Nel for his assistance. Mr van Schalkwyk noted that this information was also to be passed on to the Director-General.

3.3 Implementation of the Management Plan

The Chairman felt that the 1996 Marion Island relief voyage left a great deal to be desired and listed the various grievances mentioned in his report.

In terms of the rat guards, Mr van Schalkwyk informed that he had discussed new designs with Sea Fisheries and that Mr H Valentine was following up the matter.

The Chairman added that Ms C Hänel had sewed black curtains for the base, taking about 48 hours, but that the Department of Public Works (PWD) had assured that the measurements of the windows had been taken in order to make blinds.

He continued that the helicopter flights had not been undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Management Plan and that two contraventions had occurred. Although DEA&T had addressed the matter, he suggested that it be forwarded to the AMC. It was also to be recommended to the AMC that PWD take care on what equipment, materials, etc. was taken to the island.

In general, he informed that the provisions of the Management Plan had been relatively well-accepted, but that personnel from the Weather Bureau had complained about the restrictions. Mr van Schalkwyk informed that documents containing the relevant information had been timeously circulated.

The Chairman advised that dissatisfaction had been expressed on the discrepancy between the areas that the team members and field assistants were allowed into, and that it was important that the team remained friendly. Prof Smith suggested that the Conservation Officer be given permission to issue permits on-the-spot, but Mr van Schalkwyk stated that according to the Management Plan permits could only be issued by the Director-General. It was decided to inform Mr Nel, the Conservation Officer, that requests for additional walks could be forwarded to DEA&T for consideration.

The Chairman indicated that the routes around the Wandering Albatross colonies must be indicated and it was decided to request Dr P G Ryan to undertake this task during the next takeover.

Finally the Department was looking into the appointment of a full-time Conservation Officer.

3.4 Management actions identified as priorities

With regard to the antennas and stay wires on Marion (see also Doc. 7.8), Mr van Schalkwyk advised that Mr J A J Hattingh had investigated the matter and that the Department was now opting for Yaggi antenna for Marion and SANAE IV, which were a single antennas, and that eventually all the cables currently used would be removed. The Chairman thanked the Department for its actions in this regard.

With regard to the containment walls, Mr van Schalkwyk reported that the Department was looking into double containment, i.e. a rubber inside wall, to prevent spillage/leakage.

With regard to rubble and building waste on Marion (see also Doc. 7.6), Mr van Schalkwyk indicated that the rubbish could be returned to South Africa with the next relief voyage, with Dr Miller adding that PWD should be tasked to remove all removable waste and to provide an inventory of the irremovable waste, as well as what to do with it. Prof Smith suggested that a summary on the sites and types of waste all over the island should be provided. He undertook to find the sites with a GPS within 3 days and to keep the PWD team busy with the removal of the rubbish during the next takeover. He was thanked for his effort. Dr Jackson felt that a formal recommendation should be addressed to the Director-General that all rubbish be removed within 5 years and all items not used were to be returned. The committee supported this recommendation, as well as the removal of 2 concrete buildings.

With regard to Zone 4, the weather buoy on PEI was to be retrieved, with the assistance of Ms E Popich for its location, and the costs for the removal thereof were to be forwarded to the Weather Bureau. This was to be recommended to the AMC.

In closing, the Chairman reported that the Management Plan was working well and that it must be taken seriously.

4. MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.1 Zoning of the Prince Edward Islands

Mr van Schalkwyk circulated the maps of the zoning of Marion and Prince Edward, as drafted by the Department's GIS section, to the committee for awareness. Zone 4, which was to be indicated by Mr Cooper, was still to be included.

4.2 Increasing Public Awareness / Education Policy

The committee's attention was drawn to Doc. 4.2 where it was indicated that the South African Navy (SAN) would like to visit the PEIs to celebrate its 75th birthday.

Dr Miller pointed out that the SAN must be informed that PEI was out of bounds, the control of which was in DEA&T's hands. He also expressed his concern that the Navy was capable of celebrating its birthday, but not conducting a marine patrol to enforce the regulation of fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the PEI's.

Mr van Schalkwyk pointed out the advantage of utilizing the opportunity, namely that the SAN would supply the fuel and scientists could be sent down at the same time. Dr Miller felt it should be kept in mind that this was a Navy exercise, under the authority of DEA&T who were acting on the advice of the PEIMC who would determine the timing in terms of environmental impacts. It was decided that Mr van Schalkwyk and the Chairman were to handle this matter.

4.3 Visitor frequency to Prince Edward Island

The Chairman recommended that visits to PEI be restricted to every 5 years, due to the introduction of mice, rats, alien plants, etc., instead of on an *ad hoc* basis, as currently stated in the Management Plan. Mr van Schalkwyk felt that the Management Plan should be left "as is" with the visits regulated by the PEIMC, as necessary.

The Chairman informed that the BSTG had requested a dedicated voyage to PEI of about 15 people for 2-4 weeks, for an extensive census of Rockhopper Penguins, a full review of all albatrosses, a sheathbill and seal survey, habitat and invertebrate surveys, etc.

Dr Miller felt that a fully motivated, detailed, one-off formal proposal should be submitted to the PEIMC for consideration and that a small committee should be established to set up an environmental ecological baseline. Prof Smith added that experienced people were necessary, that the voyage should take place outside the Marion Island takeover and that more could be determined in one month than in several one-day visits - providing a control to the work conducted on Marion. Prof Smith was nominated to coordinate this venture.

It was also decided to submit a strong motivation to SACAR for a 3-person beach survey per helicopter during the next Marion Island relief voyage.

4.4 Environmental auditing of Marion Island / Appointment of Conservation Officer

This item was addressed in point 7.6.

4.5 Longline fishing close to Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Dr Miller gave a brief background on the illegal fishing for patagonian toothfish by at least 18 vessels in and around the EEZ of Marion Island.

He mentioned that no decision had been taken as to our own operators and that there was no national presence in or around Marion Island at this stage. He continued that there was an observer on a USA vessel in the area, but that there was no communication with him at present. Finally, he stated that longline fishing and trawling were getting out of hand and that another 4 vessels would be entering this area shortly.

Dr Miller said that the following 3 options were available:

- To get our own operators into the area,
- To get an objective assessment of the situation which required an enforcement presence, and
- To make an example of someone.

The Chairman was in full support of Dr Miller's statements and undertook to draft a letter to the Director-General in which these points would be addressed.

5. PERMIT ISSUED TO ENTER MARION ISLAND WATERS (5-6 AUGUST 1996)

5.1 *Veirasa 12* under the command of Capt. Marcelo Smith (Argentina)

The item was for noting only.

6. REQUESTS TO VISIT THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS

6.1 Michael Horan

Mr van Schalkwyk suggested that a standard letter of refusal to visit the Islands be sent to Mr Horan. Dr Miller added that the letter should strongly state that private expeditions were not encouraged.

7. NEW ITEMS

- 7.1 Items removed from Marion Island to be returned/displayed at a museum in Cape Town
- 7.2 "Master Plan" on national body responsible for archiving
- 7.3 Archaeology: Policy Document
- 7.4 Archaeological and Historical Research: Proposed research and conservation

Items 7.1 - 7.4 were dealt with as one item at the request of Mr Loock. Mr Loock informed that Doc. 7.1-4 was a draft document compiled by the National Monument's Council (NMC) in consultation with the Cultural History Museum, and was open for amendments. He added that the document applied to Marion, as Prince Edward was considered "no go". He continued that if the policy document was accepted, a survey, research and inventory must be undertaken, including shipwrecks, and then a management plan would be drafted. The Chairman said that the contents of the draft document were acceptable and mentioned that in terms of research, the NMC must submit a proposal to do this through SACAR. Mr Loock informed that no funding was required, only transport and accommodation.

Mr van Schalkwyk stated that a final document on what was available was needed and that Mr J Cooper should perhaps be brought on board. The Chairman summarised that Mr Cooper and the people involved should be contacted for a statement on the status and completeness of the inventory, and tasked Mr Loock with this undertaking.

7.5 Soil erosion on Marion Island

Prof Smith enquired that as the dam was not being used, if it could not be breached to follow its old course. The committee supported this proposal and also recommended the removal of old hut sites. Mr van Schalkwyk stated that these recommendations would be forwarded to the AMC.

7.6 Rubble and building waste in Marion Island

This item was addressed in point 3.4.

7.7 Waste disposal on the *S A Agulhas*

Prof Smith reported that in terms of Doc. 7.7, the names of the persons who had thrown items overboard were not known. Mr van Schalkwyk advised that such occurrences should be reported and logged immediately, as action could only be taken if names were provided. Dr Miller felt that strongly worded letters should be addressed to Sea Fisheries and Captain Hagan stating that such occurrences would not be tolerated and that in future action would be taken.

Mr van Schalkwyk indicated that this must be made known to the AMC, and added that a legal instrument would be available within the next month or so in order to enforce such regulations.

7.8 Antennas and stay wires on Marion Island

This item was addressed in point 3.4. However, Prof Smith reiterated that the stay wires and radio antenna cables injured and killed birds. Mr van Schalkwyk reported that the new system, developed by Mr Hattingh and Potchefstroom University for implementation at SANAE, would be implemented on Marion as well.

7.9 Request for Petrel monitoring

In terms of Dr Brooke's request, the Chairman enquired whether the *status quo* must be left "as is" or whether the request should be referred back to the BSTG to handle. Mr van Schalkwyk suggested that request be added as a key question to Dr P G Ryan's project proposal and, if recommended by this committee, placed on the agenda for the coming SACAR meeting. The Chairman undertook to take up this matter with Drs Ryan and R Crawford for assessment, and to inform SACAR accordingly.

7.10 Request for copies of Management Plan

The Chairman reported that many requests had been received, but had all been turned down as the Management Plan had not yet been published, and that this item was for noting only.

7.11 Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems (GCTE) and International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) interest in the Prince Edward Islands

The Chairman advised that this item was for noting only and that GCTE was interested in South Africa's ecologically interactive research.

7.12 Visit from New Zealand Environmental Officer

Dr Miller reported that subsequent to his visit to New Zealand in November 1995, one of the actions of interest identified was that their Environmental Officer visit Marion Island, as it was different to Scott base. He suggested that the visit should be encouraged either this year or next year. Prof Smith mentioned that we should boast in this regard, as there was no Management Plan as good as ours. Mr van Schalkwyk supported that we were the leading country in this aspect and that Dr Miller handle all the details pertaining to the visit.

7.13 Overflight of the Prince Edward Island's in the near future

The Chairman informed that there would be an enforcement flyover from SAAF in the near future and that a request had been received from Marion Island for an airdrop. Mr van Schalkwyk stated that there were to be no airdrops, except in the event of an emergency, and that this policy needed to be stated beforehand. The committee agreed. Dr Miller emphasised that no one should be informed of when the flight was to take place, as it would defeat the purpose.

7.14 Huts

The Chairman reported that the huts were in poor condition and unsafe, but necessary for the work conducted by the BSTG. Prof Smith supported that the current huts could be written off. The Chairman requested a letter from Prof Smith as to where huts were required, including high altitude huts. Prof Smith confirmed that all the proposals were in place and hoped that DEA&T would undertake to replace one hut per year.

Mr van Schalkwyk mentioned that with the construction of SANAE IV, some construction units would be returned to South Africa, and that Prof Smith could perhaps be coopted into a small group to determine whether these units could be utilized as huts on Marion. Prof Smith agreed that a small committee should be established, including Dr M N Bester.

Mr van Schalkwyk added that the containers were already wired and ran off generators, that they had been custom-built for SANAE but could be re-used at little cost.

The Chairman supported the upgrading of the huts and would refer the matter to SACAR.

7.15 Prince Edward Island Expedition

This matter was addressed in item 4.3.

8. EXAMINATION OF PERMIT REQUESTS ON SACAR I FORMS AS FORWARDED BY BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES TASK GROUP MEETING, FOR FORWARDING TO SACAR MEETING

The Chairman wished to address the monitoring of Gentoo Penguins, which were to be retained for 10 minutes to be stomach pumped and weighed.

- Dr Miller advised that birds were more sensitive in some areas than in others, but that this proposal was immature as it had not been submitted to the Sea Fisheries Ethics Committee, of which he was the Chairman, for approval.

The Chairman stated that, in terms of the proposal's key questions, it was not necessary to stomach pump the penguins and decided that the matter must be referred to the Ethics Committee for a decision. He continued that the project proposal was to be forwarded to SACAR for approval, pending the decision on the stomach pumping issue from Ethics Committee.

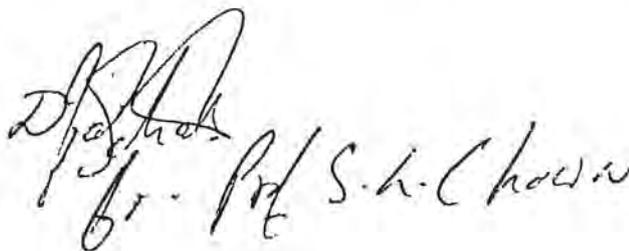
9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman felt that the next meeting should take place well in advance of the takeover voyage scheduled for 15 April 1997, i.e. in February 1997. It was suggested that this meeting be done *via* E-mail, and Mr van Schalkwyk undertook to coordinate the details in consultation with the Chairman.

10. CLOSING

The Chairman thanked the committee for its participation, the Department for lunch and the Secretariat. Mr Looch thanked the Chairman on behalf of the committee.

Prof S L Chown
CHAIRMAN



Prof S. L. Chown

DATE:

AGENDA
of the
THIRD PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

VENUE: *Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA & T)*
 Directorate: Antarctica and Islands
 8th Floor Conference Room (Rm 813)
 Fedsure Forum Building (North Tower)
 cnr Pretorius and van der Walt Streets
 PRETORIA, 0002

DATE: *19 March 1997*

TIME: *10:00*

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

**2. MINUTES OF THE SECOND PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (11 September 1996) Doc. 2**

Matters arising:

- 2.1 Sub-committee to investigate the impact of tourism to Marion Island (par. 2.3)
(Dr S Jackson)
- 2.2 Tourism Workshop (par. 2.4) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.3 Establishment of Marion Island as a LTER site (par. 2.5) *(Dr D G M Miller)*
- 2.4 Establishment of a Working Group on mice at Marion Island (par. 2.7) *Doc. 2.4*
(Prof S L Chown)
- 2.5 Workshop to discuss the Management Plan/SANAP (par. 2.8)
(Prof S L Chown/Mr D J van Schalkwyk)
- 2.6 Declaration of Marion Island as a World Heritage Site (par. 2.9) *(Dr D G M Miller)*
- 2.7 Waste disposal and incineration policy/Containment wall to prevent seepage on Marion
Island (par. 2.10-11 & 3.4) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.8 Removal of hydrogen generator (par. 3.1) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.9 Irradiation policy and costs involved (par. 3.1) *(Dr S Jackson/Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.10 Rat guards (par. 3.3) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.11 Helicopter flights (par. 3.3) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.12 Appointment of a full-time Conservation Officer (par. 3.3) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.13 Removal of rubble and building waste (par. 3.4) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.14 Retrieval of weather buoy on Prince Edward Island (par. 3.4) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.15 South African Navy: 75th birthday celebration (par. 4.2) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.16 Dedicated voyage to Prince Edward Island (par. 4.3)
(Mr D J van Schalkwyk/Prof V R Smith)
- 2.17 3-person beach survey per helicopter (par. 4.3) *(Prof S L Chown/Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*

- 2.18 Fishing in Exclusive Economic Zone (par. 4.5) (*Dr D G M Miller*)
- 2.19 Survey proposal: National Monument's Council (par. 7.1-4) (*Mr J C Loock*)
- 2.20 Breaching of dam (par. 7.5) (*Mr D J van Schalkwyk*)
- 2.21 Request for petrel monitoring (par. 7.9)
- 2.22 Visit from New Zealand Environmental Officer (par. 7.12)
(*Dr D G M Miller/Mr D J van Schalkwyk*)
- 2.23 Replacement/removal of huts (par. 7.14) (*Mr R N Skinner*) *Doc. 2.23*
- 2.24 Stomach pumping of penguins (par. 8) (*Dr D G M Miller*)

- 3. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANAGEMENT PLAN** *Doc. 3*
(*Prof S L Chown*)

- 4. NEW ITEMS**

- 4.1 Distribution of the Management Plan (*Mr R N Skinner*)

- 4.2 SACAR 3 applications (*Mr R N Skinner*)
 - 4.2.1 *Dr M N Bester* *Doc.4.2.1*
 - 4.2.2 *Dr J C Boelhouwers* *Doc.4.2.2*
 - 4.2.3 *Prof S L Chown* *Doc.4.2.3*
 - 4.2.4 *Dr R J M Crawford* *Doc.4.2.4*
 - 4.2.5 *Mr J C Loock* *Doc.4.2.5*
 - 4.2.6 *Dr E A Pakhomov* *Doc.4.2.6*
 - 4.2.7 *Dr P G Ryan* *Doc.4.2.7*
 - 4.2.8 *Prof V R Smith* *Doc.4.2.8*
 - 4.2.9 *Prof R J van Aarde* *Doc.4.2.9*
 - 4.2.10 *Mr J R van der Merwe* *Doc.4.2.10*

- 4.3 Landing of visitors on Marion Island (*Mr D J van Schalkwyk*) *Doc. 4.3*

- 4.4 Re-siting of M-net satellite dish (*Mr R N Skinner*) *Doc. 4.4*

- 4.5 Conservation Officer's Reports (May 1996 - February 1997) *Doc. 4.5*

- 4.6 Alien plant update on Marion Island (*Prof S L Chown*)

- 4.7 Application to capture penguins on Marion Island (*Mr D J van Schalkwyk*)

- 4.8 Concept Master Plan: Marion Island (*Prof S L Chown*)

- 4.9 Committee Members (*Dr D G M Miller*)

- 5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 6. CLOSING**

MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE
PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
(PEIMC) HELD ON 19 MARCH 1997 AT THE DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (DEA&T),
8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM (Rm 813), FEDSURE
FORUM BUILDING, 315 PRETORIUS STREET, PRETORIA

PRESENT

Mr D J van Schalkwyk (<i>Chairman</i>)-	DEA & T
Dr S Jackson	- University of Cape Town
Prof V R Smith	- University of the Orange Free State
Mr J C Looek	- National Monument's Council (NMC)
Mr J F Lexow	- Department of Public Works (PWD)
Mr J J Wessels	- PWD
Dr D G M Miller	- DEA & T
Mr H Valentine	- DEA & T
Mr J A Dreyer	- DEA & T
Ms C A Jacobs (<i>Minutes secretary</i>)-	DEA & T

APOLOGIES

Prof S L Chown	- University of Pretoria
Dr A J Hall-Martin	- National Parks Board
Dr A Berruti	- BirdLife South Africa

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

Mr van Schalkwyk welcomed all the committee members to the meeting, mentioning that he would be standing in as Chairman for Prof Chown, who had sent his apologies. He advised that Prof Chown had been consulted on all the agenda items, and tabled his inputs accordingly. He also welcomed Messrs Lexow and Wessels from PWD who would be providing direction with regard to the construction and maintenance of buildings on Marion Island. He informed the committee that as Mr Valentine would be the Departmental coordinator for the coming Marion relief voyage, he would be sitting in on this meeting to see how the PEIMC handled matters and for the SACAR 3 decisions.

The Chairman's proposal to attend to agenda Items 4.8, 2.13, 2.20 & 2.23 which involved PWD first, and who could then leave, was accepted by the committee.

2. MINUTES OF 2nd PEIMC MEETING (11 SEPTEMBER 1996)

The committee accepted the minutes as an accurate reflection of the 2nd PEIMC meeting, and they were signed on behalf of the Chairman by Mr van Schalkwyk.

MATTERS ARISING:

2.1 Sub-committee to investigate the impact of tourism to Marion Island

Dr Jackson gave a brief summary of the developments thus far and undertook to supply the committee with a copy of the minutes of the Tourism sub-committee's first meeting. She advised that Mr R Heydenrych (DEA & T), of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) team, would liaise with Profs Chown, Smith, etc. during the coming relief voyage, and that a DEA & T representative, Mr D Nel (Conservation Officer on Marion Island) and a freelance tour operator served on the sub-committee. She said that the sub-committee hoped to have the draft EIA report completed by June/July 1997, a copy of which would be circulated to the PEIMC, and that all the recommendations would be forwarded to this committee as well. The Chairman mentioned that Mr Heydenrych was going to Marion in place of Mr P Gildenhuys, but that they would both be liaising closely with each other and the Directorate: Antarctica and Islands in this regard.

Dr Jackson reported that the non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) had expressed concern regarding the introduction of aliens and visits to the island during breeding season. She had received no response from the tour operators and stated that the international feeling was to proceed with caution. She added that, according to some tourism people, there would never be a really big demand to visit Marion Island, as it was off the beaten track.

2.2 Tourism Workshop

The Chairman stated that this item was coupled to the EIA and would be addressed if the need arose. It was decided to remove the item from the agenda.

2.3 Establishment of Marion Island as an LTER site

Dr Miller reported that he had contacted James Gets from the USA, but had not yet received a response. He continued that the idea of developing Marion in terms of the LTER network, and involving the USA, had been raised at a US/SA Bi-national meeting and that a positive response had been received. In this regard, he added that the Gore/Mbeki agreement was very pro-active and inclined towards affirmative action, with lots of money available for an affirmative action component. He stated that such a component could easily be incorporated into Prof Chown's project, and that on his return they would draw up a proposal to submit for approval and funding.

2.4 Establishment of a Working Group on mice at Marion Island

The Chairman felt that it was not this committee's responsibility to establish such a working group, and that although the monitoring should continue, the control thereof should be referred to the Biological Sciences Task Group (BSTG) for control and direction due to their expertise. Dr Miller said it was important to note that it was not within the remit of the PEIMC to be concerned with mice as a threat, that the recommendations forthcoming from the Mouse Workshop had been noted and that the total eradication of mice would be expensive.

2.5 Workshop to discuss the Management Plan/SANAP

The Chairman advised that this matter had been discussed "in house" in order to determine a suitable date to hold the workshop, and that he was awaiting confirmation from Capt N Hagan as to when the *SA Agulhas* would be available for this purpose. He remarked that mid-July was a possibility, as it was too hot to utilise the hangar in summer.

2.6 Declaration of Marion Island as a World Heritage Site (WHS)

Dr Miller reported that a mother convention in this regard had only recently been signed and that a number of issues were being dealt with, e.g. Table Mountain as a WHS, etc. He added that it was a complicated procedure, the implementation of which was still under investigation, and that environmental audits would also have to be conducted. He informed the committee that a Convention on Biodiversity had been ratified last year, which made provision for the declaration of sites due to their unique biodiversity, and that this should be kept in mind in conjunction with Marion's declaration as a WHS.

2.7 Waste disposal and incineration policy/ Containment wall to prevent seepage on Marion Island

With regard to waste disposal, the Chairman advised that waste management had been included in the Prince Edward Islands Management Plan (PEIMP). He indicated that he was aware that this policy was not all-inclusive, but that the matter would be addressed by Mr Gildenhuys and that hopefully a draft document would be presented at the next PEIMC meeting.

He notified the committee that the containment wall issue had been referred to PWD, but that no progress had been made as yet, as DEA & T was awaiting the final approval of the Master Plan.

2.8 Removal of hydrogen generator

Mr Dreyer stated that the generator would not be removed during the coming takeover, but that the wooden platform and aluminium chips would be removed. The Chairman elaborated that the Antarctic Management Committee (AMC) had requested the Weather Bureau (WB) to investigate the feasibility and cost of the removal of the generator, and that Mr Dreyer would ascertain the precautions taken for cleaning up, containers available, etc.

2.9 Irradiation policy and costs involved

The Chairman reported that the previously used company in Pretoria had closed down, but that the policy had already been adopted in that only deboned chicken was purchased for Marion. Mr Valentine advised that companies in Hebron and Montague Gardens had been contacted in terms of irradiation and the costs involved, with the Chairman adding that the idea was to deliver the goods to Paardeneiland and to do the irradiation ourselves, utilising the most suitable/feasible company. He stated that camping equipment would be fumigated, but that Mr Valentine was investigating the irradiation thereof.

2.10 Rat guards

The Chairman reported that this matter had been taken up with the Chief Director: Sea Fisheries and that Capt Hagan was looking into other alternatives to rat guards. He added that the *S A Agulhas* was inspected every six months, and a rat-free certificate issued accordingly. Prof Smith was concerned that rats could possibly be transported to Marion, and felt that it was no use having a protocol if it was not adhered to. Dr Miller supported that the *S A Agulhas* should be inspected every time it left the harbour, in addition to the 2-6 monthly inspections, and that the rat guards should be replaced if they fell off. He added that this should be seen in a positive light as a preventative measure to ensure that rats were not transported to an ecologically sensitive area. The Chairman said that a letter to Sea Fisheries would be drafted, stating the policy that rat guards were to be on all mooring ropes at all times and that inspections were to be carried out more often.

2.11 Helicopter flights

The Chairman reported that the South African Air Force (SAAF) maintained that they had flown in accordance with the provisions as set out in the PEIMP. He added that the matter had been discussed with Col Stroebel, and read a draft letter in this regard aloud to the committee for their approval. The committee approved the contents of the letter. The Chairman suggested that in future all problems were to be addressed immediately during the takeover.

2.12 Appointment of a full-time Conservation Officer

The Chairman advised that this position had not yet been filled, as no suitable candidates were forthcoming from the previous advertisement. He stated that the position had been readvertised, with no qualifications or experience being required, as stipulated by DEA & T's Special Programmes Officer.

2.13 Removal of rubble and building waste

The Chairman stated that any rubble which could be collated without impeding on scientific activities must be removed. Prof Smith mentioned that it had previously been decided to provide GPS sitings of waste/rubble for collection by helicopter, but that the hut renovations (see Item 2.23) were receive priority. The Chairman approved the GPS readings and removal of rubble accordingly.

2.14 Retrieval of weather buoy on Prince Edward Island

The Chairman advised that the location of the weather buoy could be obtained from Ms Elizabeth Popich at the WB, and undertook to ask her to contact Prof Smith directly in this regard.

2.15 South African Navy (SAN): 75th birthday celebration

The Chairman said that no feedback in this regard had been received to date.

2.16 Dedicated voyage to Prince Edward Island

The Chairman informed that the AMC and South African Committee for Antarctic Research (SACAR) had approved such a voyage, in principle, pending the availability of funds. Prof Smith emphasised that the best people possible should undertake this voyage, and that it was therefore essential to know well in advance when the voyage would take place. He added that helicopter support would be essential. The Chairman advised that this voyage would only possibly take place in 1998/99, and that the SAN's *Drakensberg*, *Protea* and *Outeniqua* could all accommodate helicopters.

2.17 3-person beach survey per helicopter

Prof Smith said that he had understood that three persons would be dropped off to do a check and collect rubble, etc., as a survey per helicopter would disturb the breeding colonies due to the low flying. Dr Miller stated that helicopters need not be used to fulfil these two objectives, namely to determine whether there had been any human landings and to pick up any debris. The Chairman approved the 3-person visit, comprising Prof Chown, Prof Smith and Nick Gremmen, adding that a request to accompany this party had been received from Dr P G Ryan (see Item 4.2.7). Prof Smith pointed out that the East and West coasts needed to be surveyed, and that this was to be done prior to Marion otherwise the helicopter would have to be washed. The Chairman concluded that *en route* to Marion a 3-man party was to be deployed on the East coast and fetched per helicopter, as arranged on the ship on the way down.

2.18 Fishing in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Dr Miller provided an update on developments since the last meeting, stating that there had been a surveillance flight on 26 September 1996 during which two vessels had been photographed in the CCAMLR area and two in the EEZ of the Prince Edward Islands (PEIs). He said that the legal steps taken had not met with much success. He continued that CCAMLR had come up with measures to deal with the illegal fishing, which our measures at the PEIs would have to be in accordance with, and that no fishing would be permitted from 31 August 1996 to 31 March 1997 and 31 August 1997 until the next CCAMLR meeting. He stated that up to 76 vessels had been detected fishing illegally, that catch rates were down and that the fish were smaller. He advised that the PEI's stocks had been depleted, with 40 000 tons of fish (an incredible amount of money) being removed since July 1996, and that 25 - 30 vessels had recently been detected in French waters.

He mentioned three important issues - firstly that fishing would be resumed by five vessels in the EEZ in the next week or so, expressing his concern that there would be an increase in waste, an increase in requests to go ashore on Marion and that the lights of the vessels at night would endanger the lives of birds. Secondly, that there must be observers on board all these vessels, both international and domestic, as necessary. And thirdly, that there appeared to be substantial potential for catching and killing birds during longline fishing, and that according to the information and documentation received, an estimated 10-20 000 birds had perished.

With regard to enforcement options, he enlightened that Sea Fisheries was in the process of defining "fishing" for regulation under the Sea Fishery and Antarctic Treaties Acts. He advised that there was an indication that South African vessels in the EEZ were an effective deterrent, and that he was meeting with the SAN the following day to ensure a presence as soon as possible. He mentioned that a blacklist of vessels which would not be allowed into South African ports had been produced, in consultation with France, Australia and Namibia (who was intending to become a signatory to CCAMLR).

He informed that, for the testing thereof, an automated drone would possibly be installed at Marion Island, and finally that another surveillance flight was necessary. He closed by saying that a strong media campaign on the patagonian toothfish had been initiated in Cape Town for public awareness.

2.19 Survey proposal: National Monuments Council

Mr Looock notified the committee that he and his colleagues from the NMC had submitted a SACAR 1 project proposal, and the Chairman recommended that the proposal be submitted to the BSTG for approval.

2.20 Breaching of dam

Prof Smith explained the predicament to the PWD personnel, stating that the dam had been built for a hydroelectric scheme which had never worked, and that as the original river track was not being followed, peat was being washed away. He continued that all that was required to prevent this erosion was to break down a concrete wall so that the water could follow its original track. The Chairman requested that this matter be attended to during the coming takeover.

2.21 Request for petrel monitoring

The Chairman said that it was important to ensure that a key question addressing this issue was to be added to Dr Ryan's SACAR 1 project proposal.

2.22 Visit from New Zealand Environmental Officer

Dr Miller reported that the New Zealand Environmental Officer's visit to SANAE IV had been very successful. This item was to remain on the agenda as the committee recommended that other environmental exchanges should be explored. The Chairman advised that positive comments regarding the PEIMP had been received from Prof D Walton at the British Antarctic Survey.

2.23 Replacement/removal of huts

The Chairman informed the committee that, taking note of the inputs received, all the huts were to remain. Prof Smith added that a new high altitude hut was essential as the previous one had blown down. The Chairman advised that it had originally been intended to utilise the construction huts from Antarctica for this purpose, but that this was no longer logistically feasible (too heavy to be transported by helicopter). He continued that Mr Nel had reported that most of the huts only required repairs, with a few that needed to be replaced. Prof Smith reported that all the huts would need to be replaced eventually. The Chairman agreed, continuing that it must be determined whether the old types were to be purchased again or whether the new lightweight types should be obtained; and reminding that if new huts were to be taken down for installation during the coming takeover, PWD would have to obtain the necessary funding. Prof Smith advised that at least two new huts would be required, for Greyheaded and Mixed Pickle, as well as the new high altitude hut. The Chairman suggested that PWD attend to this matter for discussion at the meeting Mr Dreyer was to organise with them the following week. He requested Mr Dreyer to fax all the requirements to PWD to ensure that the materials for the reparation of all the huts was obtained. Prof Smith informed PWD that the windows of the huts did not need to open, as they were merely for light. The Chairman concluded that no huts would be removed, that three new fully-equipped huts were to go down for installation during the takeover, that the other huts would be repaired and that Mr Dreyer was to confirm with PWD that all the material was in place.

The Chairman thanked the PWD personnel for taking the time to attend this meeting, adding that DEA & T was looking forward to hearing from them shortly and that someone from PWD was to attend the PEIMC meetings in future to report on the progress made.

2.24 Stomach pumping of penguins

Dr Miller informed that "stomach lavage" had been discussed with Dr R Crawford and referred accordingly to the Ethics Committee. This committee had not recommended stomach pumping, ruling "only if it was absolutely necessary, but preferably not". It was important to note that this only applied

to Gentoo Penguins, as they were protected in accordance with the Seals and Sea birds Protection Act. The Chairman mentioned that Drs Crawford and Ryan had both been informed in their allocation letters that stomach pumping would not be permitted and to revise their SACAR proposals accordingly.

3. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Chairman ran through Prof Chown's comments on Doc. 3, with the "permit on request" option being acceptable to the committee. Prof Smith was in favour of the extension of Zone 2, but Dr Miller pointed out that, according to the PEIMP, the zones could only be reviewed every 5 years. He suggested that Mr Yelverton be thanked for his proposal and informed that it would be given due consideration. He then felt that an assessment should be undertaken during the coming relief voyage and a recommendation made accordingly. The Chairman requested Profs Chown and Smith to investigate the practical implications of Mr Yelverton's suggestions and their implementation within the current PEIMP.

4. NEW ITEMS

4.1 Distribution of the Management Plan

The Chairman provided a brief summary of who the PEIMP had been distributed to and invited the committee to inform DEA & T of anyone else it should go to. Dr Miller felt that it should be forwarded to all the political environmental committees. The Chairman agreed, and included the portfolio committees as well.

4.2 SACAR 3 applications

It was decided that all the scientists, biologists and field assistants were to receive permits for Zone 3.

4.2.1 *Dr M N Bester*

Dr Bester's application was approved, on the condition that he was to provide this committee with the numbers of the specimens collected within a month of his return to South Africa.

4.2.2 Dr J C Boelhouwers

The Chairman felt that Dr Boelhouwers should be informed that standard protective clothing was provided by DEA & T, but that any specialised items would be his own responsibility. In terms of Mr Boelhouwers' request, Mr Loock advised that sandstone could be porous and therefore recommended autoclaving and irradiation. Prof Smith suggested, as he may not want it autoclaved, that the rock material was to be sterilised. The Chairman asked Prof Smith to consult with Dr Boelhouwers in this regard and to inform DEA & T of the permit requirements accordingly.

Prof Smith recommended that PWD also submit SACAR 3 forms for the building material/substances they transported to Marion, especially as alien plants could be transported in sand, etc. The Chairman requested Mr Dreyer to ensure that PWD submitted a SACAR 3 form in future, and asked Mr Valentine to compile a list of PWD's requirements for this year and to obtain a SACAR 3 from them for the coming voyage when he returned to Cape Town.

4.2.3 Prof S L Chown

The Chairman had no objections to Prof Chown's request, but added that the practical execution thereof should be addressed, i.e. that it must be determined whether there were enough tents.

4.2.4 Dr R J M Crawford

The Chairman accepted Prof Chown's recommendation permitting the stomach sampling of Macaroni and Rockhopper Penguins only, provided that the numbers were specified. He reiterated that no stomach pumping of Gentoos would be allowed.

4.2.5 Mr J C Loock

The Chairman emphasised that all camping gear must be clean and sterile, and reminded Mr Valentine to follow up on the irradiation procedure. The SACAR 3 was accepted, with permits to be issued for Zones 1 - 3.

4.2.6 Dr E A Pakhomov

Prof Smith enquired regarding the position of ship-based scientists on Marion. The Chairman advised that permits for Zone 2 had been issued last year, and the committee approved Zone 2 permitting for these scientists this year as well.

4.2.7 *Dr P G Ryan*

Prof Smith felt that as the PEI voyage was only to search for activity and debris, it would be easier with a group of four persons instead of three. The Chairman approved the visit of four persons to PEI for one day.

4.2.8 *Prof V R Smith*

Prof Smith's request was approved.

4.2.9 *Prof R J van Aarde*

Mr Dreyer advised that he had received a late request from Prof van Aarde for Theo Wassermann accompany this voyage. As this had not been included in his original application, it was decided that the request would only be permitted if there was sufficient space.

4.2.10 *Mr R J van der Merwe*

The Chairman informed that only three persons could accompany the voyage and that the WB had confirmed that this was acceptable. They were also to indicate how they would clean up, i.e. utilise containers, processes involved, etc.

4.3 Landing of visitors on Marion Island

The Chairman stated that the policy at present was not to allow anyone onto Marion, but that the team leader could issue an Emergency Permit which was to be authorised by the Director-General of DEA & T within 24 hours. He continued that only one such permit had been issued last year due to heart attack symptoms.

4.4 Re-siting of M-net satellite dish

The committee's approval, in principle, was required to move the satellite dish. Prof Smith enquired whether this could be decided on the island. The Chairman confirmed that if all the relevant parties agreed (in writing to Mr Valentine), the dish could be moved accordingly.

4.5 Conservation Officer's reports (May 1996 - February 1997)

The Chairman advised that Doc. 4.5 was for noting only, and that the summary of tasks provided by Mr Nel would be addressed. It was decided to draft a letter to Mr Nel expressing the committee's thanks for a job well done.

4.6 Alien plant update on Marion Island

The Chairman stated that as Nick Gremmen would be visiting Marion, he must be requested to address this issue. Prof Smith undertook to ensure that the matter was addressed. As far as eradication material was concerned, Prof Smith said that some alien plants could be pulled out by hand, but that if there was any regrowth it would be sprayed accordingly.

4.7 Application to capture penguins on Marion Island

In terms of the application received from Dr O Orheim of Norway, Dr Miller felt that if the request was approved it would set a precedent and that the PEIMP should have included guidelines on the transportation of birds not listed in CITES. He drew the committee's attention to the fact that Dr Orheim required someone to capture and transport the birds for him. Dr Jackson advised the committee that Norway were experts in this regard, as they had 25 year old birds in captivity. Prof Smith enquired as to who would cover the costs and what would happen should other requests be received. Dr Miller pointed out that the Seals and Sea bird Protection Act would have to be kept in mind. The Chairman suggested that Dr Orheim's request be noted, that it be determined whether the birds appear on CITES and that the pros and cons be ascertained before compiling a final answer. Dr Miller felt that Norway should be requested to provide a schooled person for the capture and transportation of the birds, as South Africa did not possess the necessary expertise in this regard.

To return to the issue at hand, the Chairman enquired whether the approval of this application would have an ecological impact. Prof Smith and Dr Jackson indicated that it would not. Dr Jackson was concerned that a standard to abide by was not available and the Chairman responded that such a questionnaire was in place. Prof Smith suggested that the questionnaire be completed by Dr Orheim and referred to two referees, e.g. Knowles Kerry, John Croxall or Frank Todd, and that if the reviews were good, the request could be supported. The Chairman asked Dr Miller to ascertain whether the birds were listed on CITES and the Seals and Sea bird Protection Act.

4.8 Concept Master Plan: Marion Island

The Chairman provided a brief background in this regard, in that 2 - 3 years ago PWD had been consulted to draw up a master plan for the base on Marion, that the document had been discussed with PWD, but that all recommendations had been placed on hold until the PEIMP was published and the PEIMC in a position to assist with decisions.

Mr Lexow advised that feedback regarding the satellite dish had been obtained from Mr Panel prior to his resignation and the design sent to Mr J Visser in Cape Town to go out on tender, and that if provided with a list he would follow up as to where matters stood. The Chairman voiced his concern regarding conservation measures in terms of the PEIs' status as Special Nature Reserves, in that the PEIMC had been established to regulate and implement the PEIMP by making recommendations to the Director-General, and he requested Mr Dreyer to take up outstanding matters with Mr Lexow the following week.

In terms of the state of the base, Prof Smith informed that the current laboratories were sufficient, that better radioactive facilities were necessary, that the storerooms were presently working well and that although the old Marion House was not used during the year it was essential during takeovers. Mr van Schalkwyk added that 64 persons would be participating in the coming takeover, but that even more would be required for the cleaning-up programme. He continued that the SAAF personnel were ship-based at present due to the limited space available, but that helicopter support would be required for the clean-up and that this would not be possible when the ship was away on an oceanographic cruise. He closed by saying that DEA & T did not envisage a big rebuilding programme - only basic maintenance and upgrading of the kitchen area, but that a schedule should be drawn up for direction.

Mr Wessels stated that only installations as per Doc. 4.8 cont. were necessary, with no new structures being required. The committee decided that a work plan, for implementation in 1998, was to be compiled during the coming relief voyage, but that essential maintenance was to be undertaken during this takeover. Dr Jackson advised that the team presently on Marion had cleaned up and placed the waste/rubble strategically for airlifting, reiterating that the clean-up would require a large PWD team. Prof Smith suggested that a senior personnel member from PWD, along with someone from DEA & T and the scientists, go from building to building to decide on what should be done. Mr Valentine handed a copy of Mr J Rochas' (PWD team leader) work schedule for the coming voyage to the committee, and the matter was discussed further at great length.

Briefly sitting in as Chairman for Mr van Schalkwyk, Dr Miller thanked PWD personnel for their input, adding that par. 10.10 of the PWD schedule was an undertaking to compile a fully-detailed report. He confirmed that during the coming takeover, the old and new team leaders, the DEA & T coordinator, a member of the scientific party (either Prof Chown or Smith) and the PWD leader should undertake a walk-around of the entire base, looking at maintenance, the contents of Doc. 4.8 cont. and rehabilitation, with the recommendations going to a small working group (PWD, DEA & T and scientists) to draw up a master plan for implementation over the next 6 years.

On his return, the Chairman asked Messrs Lexow and Wessels to obtain approval from PWD for an engineer, with a structural background, to accompany the Marion Island relief voyage from 24 April to 28 May 1997. Mr Lexow requested a list of contact persons at DEA & T in order to maintain close contact. The Chairman agreed, and asked Mr Lexow to inform DEA & T by no later than 26 March 1997 of the engineer to accompany the voyage.

4.9 Committee Members

Dr Miller expressed concern that Drs Berruti and Hall-Martin had not attended one meeting yet and felt that letters should be drafted to them to ascertain whether they were still interested in serving on the PEIMC. Prof Smith felt that Mr J Cooper should replace Dr Berruti and the Chairman advised that Prof Chown had written to Dr Hall-Martin in this regard. He said that DEA & T would follow up this matter further.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was decided to hold the next meeting in September 1997.

6. CLOSING

The Chairman thanked the committee for attending the meeting.



Mr D J van Schalkwyk
CHAIRMAN

Date: 97/10/16

AGENDA
of the
FOURTH PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

VENUE: *Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA & T)*
 Directorate: Antarctica and Islands
 8th Floor Conference Room (Rm 813)
 Fedsure Forum (North Tower)
 cnr Pretorius and van der Walt Streets
 PRETORIA, 0002

DATE: *16 October 1997*

TIME: *10:30*

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

**2. MINUTES OF THE THIRD PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (19 March 1997) Doc. 2**

Matters arising:

- 2.1 Sub-committee to investigate the impact of tourism to Marion Island (par. 2.1)
(Dr S Jackson)
- 2.2 Establishment of Marion Island as a LTER site (par. 2.3) *(Prof S L Chown)*
- 2.3 Workshop to discuss the Management Plan/SANAP (par. 2.5) *Doc. 2.3*
(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)
- 2.4 Declaration of Marion Island as a World Heritage Site (par. 2.6)
(Prof S L Chown)
- 2.5 Waste disposal and incineration policy/Containment wall to prevent seepage
on Marion Island (par. 2.7) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk/Mr P E Gildenhuis)*
- 2.6 Removal of backup hydrogen generator (par. 2.8) *Doc. 2.6*
(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)
- 2.7 Irradiation policy and costs involved (par. 2.9) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.8 Rat guards (par. 2.10) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.9 Appointment of a full-time Conservation Officer (par. 2.12)
(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)
- 2.10 Removal of rubble and building waste (par. 2.13) *(Prof S L Chown)*
- 2.11 Retrieval of weather buoy on Prince Edward Island (par. 2.14) *Doc. 2.11*
(Prof V R Smith)
- 2.12 South African Navy: 75th birthday celebration (par. 2.15)
(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)
- 2.13 Dedicated voyage to Prince Edward Island (par. 2.16) *(Prof S L Chown)*
- 2.14 3-person beach survey per helicopter (par. 2.17) *(Prof S L Chown)*
- 2.15 Fishing in Exclusive Economic Zone (par. 2.18) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)* *Doc. 2.15*
- 2.16 Survey Proposal: National Monuments Council (par. 2.19) *(Mr J C Loock)* *Doc 2.16*
- 2.17 Breaching of dam (par. 2.20) *(Prof V R Smith)*
- 2.18 Request for petrel monitoring (par. 2.21) *(Prof S L Chown)*

- 2.19 Visit from New Zealand Environmental Officer (par. 2.22)
(*Mr D J van Schalkwyk*)
 - 2.20 Replacement/removal of huts (par. 2.23) (*Mr D Hendrikse*)
 - 2.21 Proposed amendments to the management plan (par. 3) (*Prof S L Chown*)
 - 2.22 Re-siting of M-net satellite dish (par. 4.4) (*Prof V R Smith*)
 - 2.23 Conservation Officer's Reports (March - August 1997) (par. 4.5) *Doc. 2.23*
(*Prof S L Chown*)
 - 2.24 Application to capture penguins on Marion Island (par. 4.7) *Doc. 2.24*
(*Mr D J van Schalkwyk*)
 - 2.25 Concept Master Plan: Marion Island (par. 4.8)
(*Mr D J van Schalkwyk/Mr D Hendrikse*)
 - 2.26 Committee Members: Re - and new appointments (par. 4.9)
(*Prof S L Chown*)
- 3. MARION ISLAND RELIEF VOYAGE 1997**
- 3.1 Management Report (*Prof S L Chown*) *Doc. 3.1*
- 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM TASK GROUP MEETINGS**
- 4.1 *Oceanographic Sciences Task Group meeting (8 August 1997)*
 - 4.1.1 Marine and Island Biology Workshop (*Mr D J van Schalkwyk*) *Doc. 4.1.1*
 - 4.2 *Biological Sciences Task Group meeting (10 September 1997)*
 - 4.2.1 Policy decision: Number of participants in relief voyages (*Prof S L Chown*) *Doc. 4.2.1*
 - 4.2.2 Decrease in number of gentoo penguins at Marion Island (*Prof S L Chown*) *Doc. 4.2.2*
- 5. NEW ITEMS**
- 5.1 A new topographic map for Marion Island (*Mr J C Loock*)
 - 5.2 ISO-certification of PEIMP (*Mr P E Gildenhuis*)
 - 5.3 Implementation of the recommendation of the Marion Island Master Plan
(*Mr D Hendrikse*)
 - 5.4 Planning period before execution of request for maintenance work to be done
(*Mr D Hendrikse*)
 - 5.5 Prince Edward Islands: Mapping (*Mr D J van Schalkwyk*) *Doc. 5.5*
 - 5.6 Draft Policy Plan: Prince Edward Islands (*Mr J C Loock*) *Doc. 5.6*
 - 5.7 Survey of Historical Sites on Marion Island (*Mr J C Loock*) *Doc. 5.7*
 - 5.8 Marion Island: Radionuclide Monitoring Station (*Mr R N Skinner*)
 - 5.9 Environmental Section of 1998/99 SACAR 1 project proposals (*Mr R N Skinner*)
- 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 7. CLOSING**

FOURTH MEETING OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PEIMC)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 1997 AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
(DEA&T), ANTARCTICA AND ISLANDS CONFERENCE ROOM
(Rm 813), FEDSURE FORUM, 315 PRETORIUS STREET, PRETORIA

PRESENT

Prof S L Chown (<i>Chairman</i>)	-	University of Pretoria
Dr S Jackson	-	University of the Witwatersrand
Prof V R Smith	-	University of Stellenbosch
Mr J C Loock	-	National Monument's Council (NMC)
Dr A J Hall-Martin	-	National Parks Board
Mr D Hendrikse	-	Department of Public Works (PWD)
Mr C Jacobs	-	PWD
Mr D J van Schalkwyk	-	DEA&T
Mr R N Skinner	-	DEA&T
Ms C A Jacobs	-	DEA&T
Ms M R Mohlala (<i>Minutes secretary</i>)-	-	DEA&T

APOLOGIES

Dr D G M Miller	-	DEA&T
Dr A Berruti	-	BirdLife South Africa

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The Chair welcomed all the committee members to the meeting, with a special welcome to Mr Hendrikse, Mr Jacobs and Ms Mohlala, and tendered apologies from Dr Miller. He advised that Dr Berruti had indicated that his commitments to BirdLife South Africa would prevent him from attending future meetings and he was therefore not available to renew his contract.

The following items and documents were added to the agenda:

- 2.27 SACAR 3 applications (par. 4.3) (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 5.8 Radionuclide monitoring station at Marion Island (*Mr R N Skinner*) / *Doc 5.8*
- 5.9 Environmental section of 1998/99 SACAR 1 project proposals (*Prof S L Chown*) / *Doc 5.9*.

2. MINUTES OF THE 3rd PEIMC MEETING (19 MARCH 1997)

After one amendment, namely that CITES should consistently be referred to as such and not SITES (p.12, par. 4.7), the committee accepted the minutes as an accurate reflection of the 3rd PEIMC meeting, and they were signed accordingly by Mr van Schalkwyk who had stood in as Chair for this meeting. The Chair thanked him for standing in while he was on sabbatical.

MATTERS ARISING:

2.1 *Sub-committee to investigate the impact of tourism to Marion Island*

Prof Chown stated that there was no harm in advising the press regarding the Tourism Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), but no positive or negative statements in this regard were to be made. Dr Jackson said that the draft EIA, compiled by Mr R Heydenrych (who had liaised with the scientists on Marion Island), would be sent to 8 international reviewers, including those from New Zealand, England and Australia, in due course. She agreed that discretion was necessary when dealing with the press, but that the public must be made aware that this document was available for comment. She suggested that a short press release be drafted in order to do so. The Chair recommended that the EIA be placed on a Web Site for easy access. This was acceptable to the committee and Dr Jackson undertook to draft the press release. Mr van Schalkwyk felt that a spokesperson should be nominated to deal with the press and that copies of the EIA should be made on request. The Chair stated that these matters could be finalised by DEA&T, with all requests for copies of the EIA to be forwarded to Dr Jackson. He thanked everyone for the work that had been done and was happy with the developments. Mr Skinner undertook to liaise and finalise the matter with Dr Jackson.

2.2 *Establishment of Marion Island as a LTER site*

The Chair stated that he had been in contact with Dr Miller in this regard, and that the matter should be referred to SACAR as a potential source of funding.

2.3 *Workshop to discuss the Management Plan/SANAP*

Mr van Schalkwyk advised the committee that due to a shortage of personnel, the COMNAP meeting in August and the Liability Annex meeting in November 1997, this workshop had been postponed. It would be kept in mind, however, and a decision may be made at the coming SACAR meeting.

2.4 *Declaration of Marion Island as a World Heritage Site*

The Chair reported that he now had documentation on what was required and that it was a long process which would require another sub-committee. He continued that there were no resources to do this at present, but that he was investigating the matter and would report back to the committee early next year. Dr Hall-Martin commented that National Parks Board was currently looking at World Heritage Sites proposals and would assist in this matter if required.

2.5 *Waste disposal and incineration policy/Containment wall to prevent seepage on Marion Island*

Mr van Schalkwyk informed the committee that there had been much discussion with the Chief Directorate: Environmental Management regarding setting up Environmental Health and Safety Management Systems for Marion and Gough Islands, and that Mr P Gildenhuys had been tasked to do so. He continued that unfortunately the personnel involved had subsequently been withdrawn and that a work study investigation of the Directorate: Antarctica and Islands had been initiated to incorporate the environmental component accordingly.

With regard to the containment wall, Mr Hendrikse reported that PWD was looking at utilising "Terra Force" instead of concrete, which would look better aesthetically.

The Chair stated that it must be decided whether or not to revise the PEIMP, as its provisions in terms of incineration were not adhered to. Mr van Schalkwyk mentioned that Mr Lexow from PWD had attended the last PEIMC meeting, and had undertaken to ensure that all the problems were addressed. He added that he had received no feedback as yet, but that these matters could be forwarded to the meeting between PWD & DEA&T the following day. The committee was satisfied that the Chair would represent the PEIMC at this meeting.

2.6 *Removal of backup hydrogen generator*

Mr van Schalkwyk advised the committee that the Weather Bureau had recommended the utilisation of cylinders as backup in case of emergencies, which would cost about R 20 000, and that the backup hydrogen generator could thus be removed from the Island. Prof Smith commented that 12 cylinders would cost about R 3 600 per year to hire. The Chair stated that such a recommendation would be made and that this matter would also be addressed at the PWD/DEA&T meeting.

2.7 *Irradiation policy and costs involved*

Mr van Schalkwyk reported that all eggs were irradiated by Hepbro and only deboned chickens were sent to Marion Island. The Chair thanked DEA&T for investigating the available options, mentioning that Hepbro should be kept in mind for future reference.

2.8 *Rat guards*

Mr van Schalkwyk stated that there had been much discussion on this matter and that a new Captain (Capt. Davidson) had been temporarily appointed. He continued that certificates had been issued stating that the SA Agulhas had been rat - free over the past month and that tying the rat guards to the mooring ropes was currently being investigated by Mr Oosthuizen and Capt. Davidson. He advised that anyone who saw no rat guards on the ship was to report the matter immediately. The Chair stated that this issue was of huge concern, as South Africa would be in a position of extreme embarrassment if additional rodents were to get onto the Island. Dr Jackson felt that keeping the rat guards on the ropes was a fairly simple task, and that the rat free certificates were meaningless if there were no rat guards, with Prof Smith supporting that other ships had them on. Mr van Schalkwyk suggested that all the concerns be noted in a letter for discussion with the Acting Director-General in an attempt to tie up loose ends in this regard.

2.9 *Appointment of a full-time Conservation Officer*

The Chair stated that in line with Dr P G Ryan's suggestion of appointing a full-time Conservation Officer, this would solve some of the above - mentioned problems. Mr van Schalkwyk informed the committee that the three posts in the Chief Directorate: Environmental Management for SANAE, Marion and Gough had fallen away and that this would be discussed at a meeting later that afternoon. He continued that contract workers could possibly be appointed, but that full-time personnel were necessary and funding was essential to do so. The Chairman felt that this matter must be referred to SACAR and the AMC, and stated that as it was important to have a Conservation Officer on the Island, he was willing to forfeit one takeover personnel member for this purpose.

2.10 *Removal of rubble and building waste*

The Chairman thanked Mr J van der Merwe's (Weather Bureau) team, the Directorate: Antarctica and Islands and PWD for removing some of the waste from the Island. He continued that the hut at Laekop had completely fallen apart, that the others would as well soon and that if they were not repaired it would result in health risks and environmental problems. He felt that as much as possible should be done during takeover, that the team was also to assist, and that DEA&T must liaise with PWD in this regard. Mr van Schalkwyk asked Mr Skinner to set up priorities at the PWD/DEA&T meeting the following day, i.e where rubble was located, etc.

2.11 *Retrieval of weather buoy on Prince Edward Island (PEI)*

Prof Smith reported that he had received a vague map from Ms E Popich, but that the weather buoy could not be located. He added that there was no PEI voyage in 1995 when it was supposedly picked up, according to Doc. 2.11. The Chair stated that the weather buoy must be retrieved if the intended dedicated voyage took place.

2.12 *South African Navy (SAN): 75th birthday celebration*

Mr van Schalkwyk stated that the SAN had indicated that there would be no voyage to the PEIs as originally planned.

2.13 *Dedicated voyage to Prince Edward Island*

2.14 *3-person beach survey per helicopter*

These two items would be discussed under item 3.1.

2.15 *Fishing in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)*

The Chairman informed the committee that Dr Ryan had submitted a paper stating that between 5000 to 20 000 birds had been killed over the past few years, but that the impact on PEI could not be measured as no bird counts were available. He then suggested that Sea Fisheries be requested to supply the PEIMC with copies of the permits issued. Mr Skinner mentioned that a chain of command had been set up initially, but that it was no longer working. He said that when copies of the permits issued had been requested, he had been advised telephonically that all the necessary stipulations had been included and that the team leader on Marion Island would be informed regarding the vessels with permits. Mr Skinner recommended that a draft letter or report be compiled for discussion with the Acting Director-General. The Chair mentioned the possibility of a SAN voyage and that a CCAMLR representative must be on board. Mr van Schalkwyk stated that the matter would be discussed with Sea Fisheries and that someone with experience, and the programmes best interest at heart, must be included if such a voyage materialised, and that a few nominations should be cleared and on standby. Dr Ryan would be contacted and advised accordingly.

Mr van Schalkwyk suggested that this committee recommend to the Acting Director-General that he and Prof Chown be tasked to deal with this matter. This was acceptable to the committee. It was the general consensus of the PEIMC that Prof Ryan undertake a quick voyage to PEI, should one arise, especially in terms of alien introductions, etc. Alternatively Mr D Nel should undertake this trip. Mr van Schalkwyk requested that Dr Ryan submit a draft code of conduct to be included in permit regulations. The Chair would take up the matter with Dr Ryan.

2.16 Survey Proposal: National Monuments Council (NMC)

Mr Loock stated that an initial SACAR 1 proposal had been submitted to visit Marion Island, and that subsequently a report and a follow up SACAR 1 proposal had now been tabled. In support of their involvement, he mentioned that the NMC had legal obligations to Marion Island and that the Cultural History Museum had been approved by DEA&T to curate all items. Prof Smith commended that the report submitted was excellent and that as only one further voyage was necessary it should be supported. This was seconded by Dr Jackson. Mr Loock stated that additional literature had been obtained, which would be valuable. The Chair requested that the size, number, location, etc. of the proposed stakes (markers) must be included in the SACAR 3 form to be tabled at this committee early next year.

2.17 Breaching of dam

Prof Smith reported that the peat surrounding the dam was being washed away by between 7-15 metres per year, but that the dam wall was not necessarily the cause. He said that the building activities were a possible cause. The Chair mentioned that there was a lot of seepage from underneath the dam wall and suggested that Mr Loock and Prof Smith must investigate the matter during the next takeover and make a recommendation accordingly.

2.18 Request for petrel monitoring

The Chairman stated that in reaction to a letter from Dr M Brooke, his request had been directed to Drs Ryan and Crawford, who would address it as far as possible. The matter was now handled by the Biological Sciences Task Group.

2.19 Visit from New Zealand Environmental Officer

Mr van Schalkwyk reported that this matter was on ice at present and could be deleted from this agenda. He undertook to address it accordingly, if a need arose in the future.

2.20 Replacement/removal of huts

Mr Hendrikse advised that PWD was responsible for accommodation, but that additional accommodation for scientific research was to come from SANAP. He confirmed that the original funding had been obtained from the then Department of Transport.

Mr van Schalkwyk stated that PWD was responsible for all the accommodation requirements irrespective and that according to Treasury approval, only the funding of fuel, globes and furniture had been redirected to DEA&T. He felt that the problems between the two Departments must be ironed out the following day. Mr Hendrikse agreed. The Chair said that all the huts, except the one at Kildalkey, were to be replaced and the state of the huts were environmentally a threat in terms of health and safety. Mr Look requested whether one hut, preferably with its graffiti, could be made available to the NMC for historical purposes, when returned. He was asked to direct his request to PWD in writing.

2.21 *Proposed amendments to the management plan*

The Chair stated that the document must remain "as is" at present, and could be reviewed at a later stage.

2.22 *Re-siting of M-net satellite dish*

The Chair advised that the dish had not been moved, as it was no longer receiving and would be removed accordingly. Mr Skinner advised that the M-Net sponsorship with the team had expired, and technology (new decoder) had not been provided, but that there may be a new one following in future. Mr van Schalkwyk recommended that someone from the PEIMC be involved if the dish was resited.

2.23 *Conservation Officer's Reports*

The Chair stated that Mr Nel, the first Conservation Officer, was consistent and went more than the extra mile. Dr Jackson commented that his helpfulness with the Tourism EIA was to be commended. The Chairman also recommended that this committee draft a letter of thanks to Mr Nel for his good work. Prof Smith mentioned that the BSTG had suggested that he be reimbursed for his efforts and that perhaps this committee should recommend this as well. Mr Skinner advised that there were no longer notch increases, with Mr van Schalkwyk adding that he had already been appointed on a higher notch due to his Conservation Officer status. The Chair closed by emphasising the bird strike problem, stating that blinds must be installed during the next takeover and that the availability of oil dispersant on the Island was a necessity.

2.24 *Application to capture penguins on Marion Island*

Mr van Schalkwyk provided a brief rundown of developments in this regard, stating that the Norwegians had originally requested Macaroni Penguins but now wished to capture Rockhoppers instead. It was decided to refer the application to Mr J Cooper of the SCAR Bird Biology Working Group to review and refer to referees in light of the recent decline in Rockhopper Penguins on Marion Island. The Chair undertook to contact Mr Cooper in this regard. It was also felt that the approval of this request was within the ambit of the PEIMP, as it met the educational purposes criteria.

As regards the care, quarantine, transfer, etc. of the birds, the committee recommended that the Norwegians must take care of all these aspects, as soon they took delivery of the penguins which would be on the Island as soon as they were captured. The final decision was that if the removal of the penguins was a threat to the conservation of the species, the PEIMC would not support the application, but if it was not a threat the application would be approved.

2.25 *Concept Master Plan: Marion Island*

Mr van Schalkwyk advised the committee that no new plan had been received, but that it had been discussed by Messrs Holzhausen (PWD), Dreyer and himself and decided that the kitchen would in the interim be upgraded. Mr Jacobs informed that the PWD Engineer was in the process of completing his take-over report, with recommendations on the structural stability of buildings. Mr van Schalkwyk felt that a short-term maintenance plan, a long-term plan (perhaps rebuilding the base) and the level of funding must be determined. Mr Hendrikse agreed that these aspects must be addressed and that the time-scales and so on could be decided at the PWD/DEA&T meeting.

2.26 *Committee Members: Re- and new appointments*

The Chair mentioned that the present PEIMC's term-of-office was drawing to a close on 12 January and 1 March 1988, and that the Acting Director-General must appoint a new committee. He recommended that Mr Cooper replace Mr Berruti and that Dr Ryan be co-opted for his knowledge of the fishing aspects. Mr van Schalkwyk stated that this matter would be attended to.

2.27 *SACAR 3 forms for all personnel*

The Chairman recommended that all groups, not just scientists, visiting Marion Island must submit SACAR 3 forms. Mr van Schalkwyk stated that this was already being implemented and requested that the PEIMC meeting be scheduled earlier next year in order that PWD and DEA&T could timeously address relevant matters.

3. MARION ISLAND RELIEF VOYAGE

3.1 *Management Report*

The Chair stated that the relief voyage had gone reasonably well, especially in terms of the Management Plan, and provided a brief rundown of his report, highlighting the serious environmental concerns regarding the collapse of the concrete slab at the point. Mr Hendrikse advised that "Terra Force", which was more aesthetically pleasing, would be used to address this problem and would be discussed further at the PWD/DEA&T meeting.

The Chair mentioned that the laboratories were not fully maintained, but that most were structurally sound, except for the ionospheric laboratory which was to be referred to DEA&T to decide what to do with. The Chairman strongly recommended that in terms of the team members, perhaps someone aside from the diesel mechanic could be appointed to take care of year-round maintenance. Dr Hall-Martin agreed that regular maintenance was better than rush jobs once a year and that such a person would also be able to advise better what needed to be done during takeover.

The Chair mentioned that a large rodent had been spotted on Marion Island and that the situation was being carefully monitored, but that rat guards on the ship were thus essential. Prof Smith stated that he had been involved in the programme for 27 years and that there had been an increased introduction of alien species over the last few years. In accordance with the mandate of the PEIMP to stop alien introductions, the PEIMC recommended that no fresh vegetables be taken to Marion in the future. The Chair mentioned the possibility of cross-contamination via the orange containers. Mr Skinner stated that a high pressure hose was used to clean these containers and that specific containers were allocated to Marion, Gough and SANAE respectively, that PWD was also instructed to do this, but that although DEA&T had attempted to get specific sheds allocated at the harbour, this was not possible. Prof Smith suggested that the plants outside the stores in Cape Town be eradicated by spraying once a year, and the Chair recommended that the areas where the containers stood should be treated with herbicide. He also said that the new-issue boots had holes in the sides where seeds could easily accumulate. Mr Skinner undertook to advise Mr Valentine of the Clothing Committee accordingly.

Regarding the erection of the VHF repeater, the Chair mentioned that an EIA had not been done prior to the Marion voyage and that one was done hurriedly on the Island. He recommended that all the alternatives should be investigated and that in future all such items must be directed through this committee first. Mr Skinner said that there had been a misunderstanding between the Pretoria and Cape Town offices and that Mr F Hofman was requested to discuss the issue with the Chair directly on the way to Marion before doing anything. The Chairman asked DEA&T to express the committee's appreciation to Mr Hofman for the good job done with the removal of the rhombic antennas.

The Chair stated that the visit to PEI had been very successful, due to the coordination of Mr Valentine and that Mr Skinner was please to convey the committee's thanks to him. He also mentioned the excellent cooperation from the South African Air Force. He continued that there had been no evidence of human visits, but that much debris had been washed ashore. The Chair requested that a new alien species, also present on Marion, be eradicated on PEI as soon as possible.

In closing, the Chair mentioned the significant differences seen first hand between Marion and PEI, stating that this huge discrepancy was largely due to the fact that there were no cats, mice or alien plants on PEI, and that it was therefore important to keep PEI alien free. Last but not least, he praised the former and present expedition teams for their excellent adherence to the provisions of the PEIMP.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM TASK GROUP MEETINGS

4.1 *Oceanographic Sciences Task Group meeting (8 August 1997)*

4.1.1 Marine and Island Biology Workshop

The Chairman stated that the request for such a workshop, received from Dr Miller, did not fall within the remit of this committee. He suggested that the matter be referred to the Biological and Oceanographic Sciences Task Groups to organise, pending the availability of funding. This was accepted by the committee who supported the proposal.

4.2 *Biological Sciences Task Group meeting (10 September 1997)*

4.2.1 Policy decision: Number of participants in relief voyages

The Chairman advised that 64 persons were allowed on Marion Island in accordance with the PEIMP, but that there had been a lengthy debate on this issue at the BSTG meeting, with conflicting views expressed. Mr Hendrikse stated that the base was utilised by a small team throughout the year, and that the four weeks of the takeover period did not justify extending the base. Prof Smith commented that the toilets leaked as they were not properly maintained, that the laundry facilities were insufficient and that meals took so long because there was a lack of adherence to scheduled meal sessions. Mr Hendrikse said that two extra washing machines could be taken down next year, but that the rest was as a result of poor maintenance. Prof Smith agreed that with good discipline and management, the base could handle 64 persons.

4.2.2 Decrease in number of Gentoo Penguins at Marion Island

The Chair advised the committee that there had been a decrease in the number of Gentoo Penguins and provided a rundown of the report received from expedition member, Ms M Greyling, on the Island. He was concerned that the late takeovers affected the pairing of the birds due to the disturbance around the base area and recommended that the Marion takeover be shifted earlier if at all possible as the weather was also better then. Mr Skinner indicated that this would not be possible this year or next year due to existing SANAE commitments, but that it could be considered as from 1999/2000. Dr Hall-Martin enquired whether other vessels could be used for relief voyages, and Mr Skinner replied that SAN vessels had to be reserved at least two years in advance and were not equipped to undertake oceanographic work which was done during relief periods.

5. NEW ITEMS

5.1 *A new topographic map for Marion Island*

The Chair referred to Doc. 5.5 and stated that the completion of the maps using either SPOT or RADARSAT fine beam data was quite expensive. Mr Skinner said that if the Department of Land Affairs was pressurised to complete the maps, satellite data - which was more expensive - would have to be used.

5.2 *ISO certification of PEIMP*

Mr Skinner was unable to shed any light on this subject.

5.3 *Implementation of the recommendations of the Marion Island Master Plan*

This item was handled under item 2.25.

5.4 *Planning period before execution of request for maintenance work to be done*

Mr Hendrikse reported that any new requests required three years of planning as follows: one year for the suggestion/recommendation, another year to obtain funding and a third year for the implementation thereof. The Chair stated that this would be kept in mind.

5.5 *Prince Edward Islands: Mapping*

This matter was addressed under item 5.1.

5.6 *Draft Policy Plan: Prince Edward Islands*

Mr Looock reported that he had visited Marion Island with two people and that they had covered everything they intended to do. He advised that certain artifacts could be dated, especially military equipment, and that any comments could be forwarded to him as Doc. 5.6 was only a draft document.

5.7 *Survey of Historical Sites on Marion Island*

The Chair congratulated Mr Looock and his team for the excellent document produced and added that copies were available from Ms Jacobs. Prof Smith felt that it would be worthwhile if this document could be published for distribution to expedition members, etc. Mr Looock stated that the document needed to be revised and information added. The Chair recommended that a copy of the document "as is" be forwarded to Marion with the next takeover and that the document be published once it had been updated after the next visit to Marion Island.

5.8 Marion Island: Radionuclide Monitoring Station

Mr Skinner advised the committee that South Africa had signed and become a party to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and mentioned that a request regarding the possibility of establishing a radionuclide monitoring station on Marion Island had been received. He added that Doc. 5.8 had been tabled for information, and that any suggestions in this regard must be passed through the PEIMC. Prof Smith undertook to e-mail the details of the USA's present station operators on Marion to Mr Skinner to determine whether it was necessary to replace the existing station. Mr Skinner would keep the committee informed of developments.

5.9 Environmental section of 1998/99 SACAR 1 project proposals

Prof Smith, Chown and van Aarde, and Drs Bester and Boelhouwers' proposals were endorsed by the committee for onward transmission to SACAR. Dr Ryan's proposal was also endorsed, but with regard to his request to visit PEI, he was to indicate what he intended to do there and the matter was deferred to the next meeting. Dr Crawford's project was recommended, but he was also required to provide an indication of his intentions when visiting PEI.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This item was not discussed.

7. CLOSING

The Chair thanked the committee for their involvement over the past two years. He also thanked DEA&T and the Directorate: Antarctica and Islands for their assistance and for all the lunches. He stated that the composition of the committee could change entirely and that they would be advised accordingly in due course. Mr Loock expressed the committee's thanks to the Chair for his efficiency.



PROF S L CHOWN
CHAIR

DATE: 26 February 1998

AGENDA
of the
FIFTH PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

VENUE: *Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA & T)*
 Directorate: Antarctica and Islands
 8th Floor Conference Room (Rm 813)
 Fedsure Forum (North Tower)
 cnr Pretorius and van der Walt Streets
 PRETORIA, 0002

DATE: *26 February 1998*

TIME: *10:00*

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

**2. MINUTES OF THE FOURTH PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (16 October 1997) Doc 2**

Matters arising:

- 2.1 Report-back on the status of the Tourism EIA (par. 2.1) *(Dr S Jackson)*
- 2.2 Removal of rubble and building waste (par. 2.10) *(Mr R N Skinner)*
- 2.3 Breaching of dam / other alternatives (par. 2.17) *(Prof V R Smith / Mr J C Loock)*
- 2.4 Replacement / removal of huts (par. 2.20) *(Mr R N Skinner / Prof S L Chown)*
- 2.5 Application to capture penguins on Marion Island (par. 2.24) *(Prof S L Chown)*
- 2.6 Appointment of a new Management Committee (par. 2.26) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
- 2.7 Concrete slab at the point on Marion Island (par. 3.1) *(Prof S L Chown)*
- 2.8 Recommendation regarding fresh vegetables (par. 3.1) *(Mr D J van Schalkwyk)*
Doc 2.8
- 2.9 Radionuclide Monitoring Station on Marion Island (par. 5.8) *(Mr R N Skinner)*
Doc 2.9

3. SACAR 3 APPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Dr C J Augustyn (for Dr R J M Crawford) *Doc 3.1*
- 3.2 Mr A Rowland (for SA Weather Bureau) *Doc 3.2*
- 3.3 Dr I Meikeljohn (for Dr J C Boelhouwers) *Doc 3.3*
- 3.4 Dr D J Marshall (for Prof S L Chown) *Doc 3.4*
- 3.5 Mr J C Loock *Doc 3.5*
- 3.6 Mr M Murphy (for Department of Public Works) *Doc 3.6*
- 3.7 Dr P W Froneman (for Prof C D McQuaid / Prof J R E Lutjeharms) *Doc 3.7*

- 3.8 Prof R J van Aarde
- 3.9 Dr P G Ryan
- 3.10 Maj A W Johnson (for SA Air Force)
- 3.11 Mr H Valentine (for Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism)
- 3.12 Prof V R Smith
- 3.13 Prof A R W Hughes
- 3.14 Prof D S Butterworth
- 3.15 Dr M N Bester

4. NEW ITEMS

- 4.1 Structural Engineer's Report - 1997 Marion Take-over (*Mr C J Jacobs*) **Doc 4.1**
- 4.2 Proposal for Repeater Station (*Mr R N Skinner*) **Doc 4.2**
- 4.3 Electrified fencing for Prof R J van Aarde's project (*Mr R N Skinner*)
- 4.4 Alien plants and invertebrates at the Prince Edward Islands (*Mr R N Skinner*) **Doc 4.4**
- 4.5 Poultry products (*Mr R N Skinner*)
- 4.6 Position on delivery of goods to Marion Island by fishing vessels (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.7 Team issues as a result of the Management Plan (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.8 Alien plants - visit to Prince Edward Islands (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.9 Appointment of Conservation Officer (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.10 Fisheries enforcement in Exclusive Economic Zone (*Dr D G M Miller*)
- 4.11 Prince Edward Education value (*Dr D G M Miller*)
- 4.12 Establishment of Marion Island as an LTER site (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.13 Blue booklet (*Prof S L Chown*)

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6. CLOSING

**FIFTH MEETING OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PEIMC)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 1998 AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (DEA&T)
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, ROOM 813, FEDSURE FORUM,
315 PRETORIUS STREET, PRETORIA**

PRESENT

Prof S L Chown (Chair)	-	University of Pretoria (UP)
Dr D G M Miller	-	Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries (DEA & T)
Prof V R Smith	-	University of Stellenbosch
Mr J C Loock	-	National Monument's Council
Mr C Jacobs	-	Department of Public Works (DPW)
Mr M Murphy	-	DPW
Dr S Jackson	-	University of the Witwatersrand
Mr D J van Schalkwyk	-	Director: Antarctica and Islands (DEA & T)
Mr R N Skinner	-	Deputy Director: Antarctica and Islands (DEA & T)
Mr H Valentine	-	Deputy Director: Antarctica and Islands (DEA & T)
Miss C A Jacobs	-	Directorate: Antarctica and Islands (DEA & T)
Miss O M Moitsi (Minutes Secretary)	-	Directorate: Antarctica and Islands (DEA & T)

APOLOGIES

Dr A J Hall-Martin	-	National Parks Board
Mr D Hendrikse	-	DPW

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special word of welcome to Mr Valentine who would be the Departmental Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the coming Marion Island relief voyage.

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT:

The Chair briefly outlined the letter he had addressed to Mr van Schalkwyk regarding a batch of dead insects which had been found in the entomology container on Marion Island. He felt that his programme must take responsibility for this incident and stated that he was willing to step down as the Chair of the PEIMC. Mr van Schalkwyk responded that he appreciated the openness of the letter and the manner in which the matter had been addressed. He suggested that Prof Chown retain his position as Chair until 30 June 1998 when the new PEIMC would be appointed. Prof Smith commented that reference collections may be taken down and that the issue be disregarded. Dr Jackson agreed, as did Dr Miller who stated that the incident reflected that the system was working well and that such vigilance must be sustained, but that the over-censuring of one individual was not necessary. Mr Valentine commended the Chair for wishing to do the honourable thing and step down as Chair. The Chair thanked the committee for their contribution and agreed to continue serving as Chair. He undertook to submit the required report after the matter had been investigated in more detail.

The following items and documents were added to the agenda:

- 2.10 Containment wall around fuel tanks (*Prof V R Smith*)
- 4.6 Position on delivery of goods to Marion Island by fishing vessels (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.7 Team issues as a result of the Management Plan (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.8 Alien plants - visit to Prince Edward Island (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.9 Appointment of Conservation Officer (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.10 Fisheries enforcement in the Exclusive Economic Zone (*Dr D G M Miller*)
- 4.11 Prince Edward Islands Educational Value (*Dr D G M Miller*)
- 4.12 Establishment of Marion Island as an LTER site (*Prof S L Chown*)
- 4.13 Conservation Officer's Reports

2. MINUTES OF THE 4TH PEIMC MEETING (16 OCTOBER 1997)

After the following amendment to the minutes (indicated in bold) they were accepted as fair reflection of the previous meeting and signed accordingly by Chair:

p. 2, par. 2.1 - "...including New Zealand..." to "...including those from New Zealand..."

MATTERS ARISING:**2.1 Report back on the status of the Tourism Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

Dr Jackson reported that the draft report had gone out for comments, which were to be submitted by 13 February 1998, and that 5-6 responses had been received from the 8 international reviewers contacted. She continued that the report suggested that strictly controlled tourism by operators, who must comply with specific guidelines, be allowed and that a Tourism Impact Management Plan must be drafted if tourism was approved by the Minister. She added that very little public comment had been received, but that the international response had been positive regarding tourism and that the EIA would be finalised within the next 2 months. On behalf of the PEIMC, the Chair thanked Dr Jackson and Mr R Heydenrych for the excellent job they had done.

2.2 Removal of rubble and building waste

Mr Skinner reported that the 1998 relief voyage had been extended by eight days to allow for the removal of rubble, the erection of 3 new huts by DPW (one at Katedraalkrans in respect of which Mr D Nel was busy with an EIA) and the maintenance of huts, and that no logistic support for scientific work would be rendered during this time. Mr Murphy informed the committee that the huts were 50% complete. Mr van Schalkwyk added that all equipment and supplies for the huts, e.g. stoves, kitchenware, etc. would also be replaced. The Chair thanked the Department for this. With regard to ablution facilities at the huts, Mr van Schalkwyk suggested using caravan type porta-potties on a trial basis. It was decided that 2 should be tested this season at Katedraalkrans and Greyheaded/Kildalkey. Mr Skinner stated that some GPS readings of rubble sites had been provided by the team members and that it was on the OIC's agenda to address the removal thereof, if possible, during the coming relief period.

2.3 Breaching of dam / other alternatives

Prof Smith informed the committee that he and Mr Loock could look into this matter, but that it was not within his field of expertise, and maybe DPW had a soil stabilisation expert. Mr Loock commented that they would investigate the cause of the erosion and how to stop it and draft a management plan for future reference. Prof Smith mentioned that he was not participating in the relief voyage, and it was decided that Mr Loock investigate the matter, in conjunction with DPW, and submit a report accordingly.

2.4 Replacement / removal of huts

This item was dealt with under item 2.3.

2.5 Application to capture penguins on Marion Island

The Chair advised the committee that according to Mr J Cooper, Chair of the Bird Biology subcommittee of the SCAR working Group on Biology, Rockhopper Penguins were now stated as vulnerable under IUCN criteria due to the decline in numbers. He therefore suggested that the application be turned down. Mr van Schalkwyk said that the Department would advise the applicants accordingly.

2.6 Appointment of a new Management Committee

Mr van Schalkwyk stated that the appointment of the present committee members had been extended until 30 June 1998 and that the scientific community, non-Governmental organisations, etc. had been invited to submit their nominations for the new PEIMC by 28 February 1998. He urged that the Tourism EIA receive priority in order to finalise it before 30 June 1998.

2.7 Concrete slab at the point on Marion Island

Mr Murphy reported that "terra force" retaining interlocking blocks would be utilised to contain the concrete slab at the point.

2.8 Recommendation regarding fresh vegetables

The Chair reported that the recommendation that no fresh vegetables be taken to Marion Island in future had been approved by the Acting Director-General. He continued that people were likely to be unhappy about this, but that whilst at Marion Messrs Loock and Valentine must ensure that the reasons for this course of action were clearly understood; i.e. that it was environmentally beneficial in that it would hopefully stop the transfer of alien plants and insects to Marion.

Mr Skinner informed the committee that the present expedition team reported that irradiated eggs had a foul taste and did not bake well. He continued that a lower irradiation dosage was not possible and suggested that a limited number of irradiated eggs be taken down for the takeover and that egg powder be utilised for the rest of the year. Prof Smith felt that other alternatives should be investigated, as powdered eggs were freeze dried which did not eliminate Newcastle's disease. He also said that foam rubber and not feather pillows must be sent down. Mr Valentine undertook to ensure this and would investigate other alternatives with regard to the eggs.

2.9 Radionuclide Monitoring Station on Marion Island

Mr Skinner said that South Africa, as party to the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organisation, was investigating the possibility of establishing a radionuclide station at Marion Island. He continued that the Treaty Secretariat had confirmed that they were prepared to cover all costs and wished to go ahead with the proposal. Prof Smith commented that this was a national objective and should accordingly go through

SACAR. Mr van Schalkwyk suggested that an EIA be conducted and a report submitted to the PEIMC for consideration. The Chair felt that this proposal could be supported if a comprehensive EIA was received.

2.10 Containment wall around fuel tanks

Mr Murphy reported that this matter had not yet been discussed. The Chair requested Mr Murphy to investigate the matter and submit a report accordingly. He undertook to do so.

3. SACAR 3 APPLICATIONS

3.1 Dr C J Augustyn (for Dr R J M Crawford)

The Chair commented that no specifications of where the helicopters were going to fly had been supplied, and that the details provided were not sufficient to consider the application. Mr van Schalkwyk added that the Oryx's, which had no aerial photography infrastructure would be utilised. Prof Smith felt that the application could be approved provided they adhere to the guidelines of the PEIMP. The Chair indicated that they must be advised to bring their own camera units and that the DCO and Conservation Officer should accompany the flights if possible. Zone 3, 4 and Collection Permits were required.

3.2 Mr A Rowland (for South African Weather Bureau)

The Chair stated that the specifications of the Argos beacon were required, but that if it was not too big he did not foresee a problem. Mr Skinner said that it was quite a heavy item but that DPW had been approached to provide the Weather Bureau with assistance. The Chair requested that the Weather Bureau be contacted to provide the necessary details, and that Mr van Schalkwyk, PWD and himself take decision in this regard. Permits for Zones 1 and 2, and 3 for one member, would be required.

3.3 Dr I Meikeljohn (for Dr J C Boelhouwers)

The Chair supported this application, which also required a hut at Katedraalkrans. He added that they were autoclaving all samples, as requested previously. Zone 3 and Collection permits were required.

3.4 Dr D J Marshall (for Prof S L Chown)

Prof Smith foresaw no problems with this application and Zone 3 and Collection permits were required. Mr van Schalkwyk enquired as to how the water would be replenished at the Katedraalkrans hut and the Chair responded that a container was required and that the water would be recycled and replaced when it snowed. Prof Smith mentioned that normal plastic containers could crack and that UV resistant plastic should be used.

Messrs Valentine and Murphy were to consult with regard to securing the tanks, which could be removed at later stage with minimum impact to the environment.

3.5 Mr J C Loock

This application was recommended, with a Zone 3 permit required.

3.6 Mr M Murphy (for DPW)

The Chair said that a Zone 2 permit was required for the huts, and a Zone 3 permit for the Katedraalkrans hut. He also asked Mr Murphy what chemicals would be used to clean the fuel tanks. Mr Murphy responded that a standard degreaser would be used which would be contained, i.e. no spillage or sludge, and that with reference to the chipping of the fuel tanks, all chips would be contained on ground sheets and returned to South Africa. Regarding the installation of blinds, Mr Murphy stated that the matter would be addressed as far as his budget made it possible. The Chair requested that Mr Valentine, in consultation with Mr Nel, identify the most sensitive areas and address them first accordingly.

3.7 Dr P W Froneman (for Prof C D McQuaid/Prof J R E Lutjeharms)

As this group was ship-based, this application was for noting only, and a Zone 2 permit would be issued for these scientists to visit the Island.

3.8 Prof R J van Aarde

This was a standard application, and Zone 3 and Collection permits were requested. Mr Skinner provided a brief outline of the electrified fencing to be tested, stating that a fence which they wished to put up close to the base to test had been sponsored. It had a low voltage and was of no danger to the wildlife. He commented that the number of participants for the voyage could increase if no suitable expedition member was found by Prof van Aarde. More details in respect of what species, how many individuals and how many times the experiment was to be replicated was required before the permits could be issued.

3.9 Dr P G Ryan

Zone 2, 3 and 4 permits were required. The Chair mentioned that Dr Ryan must be asked whether research material was to be returned to South Africa, in which case they would require a Collection permit as well. As an expedition member would be going down, no takeover personnel were required.

3.10 Maj A W Johnson (for South African Air Force)

This unit was ship-based, but Zone 2 and 3 permits were required for landing at the hut sites.

3.11 Mr Valentine (for DEA&T)

As Mr Valentine was to coordinate the erection of huts, a Zone 3 permit was required for him. The Chef and Chaplain were to be issued with Zone 2 permits. Refer to 4.2 for the Radio Technician and Engineer requirements.

3.12 Prof V R Smith

Prof Smith would not be accompanying this voyage.

3.13 Prof A R W Hughes

3.14 Prof D S Butterworth

No response for participation was received from the above-mentioned scientists.

3.15 Dr M N Bester

Zone 3 and Collection permits were required.

The Chair felt that the coordination of hut activities may be a problem and that Mr Valentine was please to coordinate with the Chief Scientist in advance as to who would like to make use of which huts. Dr Miller commented that it would be useful to include a category in the SACAR 3 form, stating what type of permit was required and where the applicant wished to operate. It was felt that numbers (i.e. samples, visits etc.) also needed to be included. Mr van Schalkwyk undertook to look into the redesign of the SACAR 3 form.

With regard to the appointment of a Chief Scientist, the Chair recommended Prof R J van Aarde, Dr D J Marshall or Mr Loock. Mr Valentine suggested Prof van Aarde. This was accepted by the committee and DEA&T undertook to advise him accordingly. He was also to attend the Marion planning meeting scheduled for mid-March and all problems of a scientific nature were to be addressed by him.

4. NEW ITEMS

4.1 Structural Engineer's Report - 1997 Marion Take-over

The Chair greatly appreciated the presence of a structural engineer on the Island, as well as his recommendations in terms of safety, etc. He felt that the waste water recommendations were not very useful, especially in terms of the outstanding Master Plan, which DPW had been requested to revise and redraft. He continued that he, Mr Valentine, Mr J Rocha (DPW) and the team leader had undertaken a full base inspection in 1997 and that DPW had undertaken to revise the plan accordingly. As the plan had not yet been revised, the Chair put in a second request for DPW to address this matter, mentioning that both short and long-term plans were required.

Mr van Schalkwyk felt that the incinerator was a high priority at present, with Mr Skinner adding that as the existing site was not ideal, DPW was investigating an alternative site. Mr van Schalkwyk felt that a workshop comprising DPW, DEA&T and scientists should be set up to address the Master Plan in terms of criteria, time frames, etc. Various suggestions were made by the committee, with the general comment by Dr Miller that in terms of new facilities, either the existing facilities could be upgraded or new facilities constructed on existing building sites. The Chair stated that this must be addressed as policy in the Management Plan and included in the Master Plan.

4.2 Proposal for Repeater Station

The Chair reported that the TR 28 and 48 radios used at the base were becoming obsolete, due to lack of spares and inability to recharge. He continued that a Repeater Station had been taken to the island last year and a surface EIA conducted in terms of feasibility, which had subsequently been called off due to dangerous landing conditions at State President Swart Peak. The matter was to be readdressed in terms of more than one repeater station at lower levels and not a single one on top of the highest peak. This was hoped would result in a permanent, direct VHF communication with the base. He proposed that a Radio Technician and Engineer test this option during the 1998 takeover. The advantages would be better communication, and less fuel would need to be stored at the huts for a backup HF system. Mr van Schalkwyk requested that 3 of the antennas, which would be returning from SANAE IV be installed for testing and, if successful, left there. It was felt that this matter must be investigated, that the Radio Technician and Engineer be issued with Zone 3 permits and that Mr Valentine was to monitor the exercise.

4.3 Electrified fencing for Prof R J van Aarde's project

This item was dealt with under item 3.8.

4.4 Alien plants and invertebrates at the Prince Edward Islands

The Chair referred to the letter from himself concerning the disturbing developments in alien species, especially on PEI. He felt that it was a matter of urgency that *S. procumbens* on PEI be eradicated, but that this had many implications in terms of costs management and logistics, as only an *ad hoc* visit to PEI was approved. Prof Smith commented that this was their last chance to eradicate this species, as it spreads rather rapidly, and that 2 days on the east coast and 2 days on the west coast would be required to look for other patches as well. Mr Valentine commented that it was more feasible logistically if one day visits were required. The Chair felt that the committee should decide in principle to support this proposal or not, as well as address the other request received. The committee was in favour of the eradication visits and suggested that Dr N Gremmen undertake this venture, with Mr Nel. What was to be done must be included in Dr Gremmen's permit.

With reference to the aerial census required by Dr Crawford, it was decided to advise him that his group could be on board when the party was dropped at PEI. Two days on either side of PEI were set aside. Mr Valentine would coordinate this exercise.

The Chair mentioned that the Antarctic Management Committee (AMC) had recommended that some work on the new Kerguelen Cabbage proposal be undertaken. Dr Miller commented that, in principle, action must be taken if there was a direct impact on fauna and/or flora, but that in practice we may not be able to do much about the declining numbers, except express our concern. Prof Smith stated that his proposal would only provide guidelines, but not solve the problem.

4.5 Poultry products

This item was addressed under item 2.8

4.6 Position on delivery of goods to Marion Island by fishing vessels

The Chair felt that the PEIMC must address the inclusion of a policy in the Management Plan regarding the visitation of fishing vessels to the PEI's. Dr Miller stated that Sea Fisheries' policy stated that no landings were allowed unless permits had been issued, for which DEAT&T must be approached. Some members felt that under no circumstances should fishing vessels be utilised to deliver stock to Marion Island or be allowed to call on the Island for medical assistance. Mr van Schalkwyk pointed out that there could be emergencies, but that these were to be managed responsibly and thus channelled through DEA&T. He also referred to the recent injury to Ms J Hurford as an example which may have necessitated her evacuation from the Island by a fishing vessel. Accordingly, it was felt that we should leave an option open and address any future requests on grounds of medical or other emergencies.

4.7 Team issues as a result of the Management Plan

The Chair informed the committee that on the Islands, zoning of team members had been perceived as a major discrimination which had caused a psychological barrier. He suggested that the whole team be issued with Zone 3 permits and be requested to act responsibly, with Dr Miller adding that the Zone 3 entries were to be monitored. The committee was in favour of this suggestion. The present team was to be notified accordingly per letter.

4.8 Alien plants - visit to Prince Edward Islands

This item was handled under item 4.4

4.9 Appointment of Conservation Officer

Messrs J Klok and Pistorius, should he go down, were nominated for the position of Conservation Officer. The Chair felt that Mr Klok would do well in this position and offered to train him if he got the position. Prof Smith felt that it was important that the Conservation Officer was comfortable in this position and accepted as such by the team. The position was awarded to Mr Klok. The present Conservation Officer was to be thanked for his efforts and commitment over the past year.

4.10 Fisheries enforcement in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Dr Miller reported that there was now a full-time, year-round presence of South African and other permitted fishing vessels in our EEZ, removing ourselves from some of CCAMLR's provisions but with good reason. He stated that ministerial approval to patrol this area had been obtained, but that the South African Navy was not very cooperative, and continued that the Directorate had been requested to put two inspectors aboard the SA Agulhas for the Marion takeover. Mr van Schalkwyk confirmed that this was acceptable. Dr Miller advised the committee that much better information and excellent cooperation was now received from Naval Intelligence. He added that the Australians had arrested another vessel the previous day. He also mentioned that operators were fishing at night and keeping their lines under water to protect the birds. A programme in this regard would be broadcast on 50/50 this coming Sunday. Ms B Shaw from 50/50 felt that this was an avenue they would like to explore, especially in terms of monitoring global climate change, and that 3-4 programmes on the PEI's would be investigated.

4.11 Prince Edward Education value

Dr Miller reported that New Zealand had a very active programme linking education and Antarctic research, namely LEARNZ, which encouraged children visiting Antarctica, involvement of teachers, etc. He felt that this was a good idea to obtain more exposure for SANAP. He added that the AMC had endorsed this avenue and he and Mr van Schalkwyk would talk to various Portfolio Committees and get the schools involved.

4.12 Establishment of Marion Island as an LTER site

The Chair advised that the FRD would be hosting a meeting in this regard in the near future and that an invitation had been forwarded to DEA&T for nominees to attend. He informed the committee that he would be attending, as Dr Miller would be in France at this time.

4.13 Blue booklet

The Chair stated that he and Ms C Hänel had been tasked to update this booklet, which was now running into the region of 62 pages. The PEIMC would be requested to comment on the booklet and he was negotiating with publisher to develop it into a coffee table book. He said that it was a comprehensive document and that it also contained a list of all known publications, photographs, etc. of the PEI's.

5. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

This item was not applicable as the present committee was disbanding.

6. CLOSING

The Chair thanked committee for their hard work and the decisions made, Mr van Schalkwyk and the Department for acting on their recommendations and support, as well as for the secretarial duties and the lunches. He also thanked the people who were not part of this committee for their time.

**PROF S L CHOWN
CHAIR**

DATE: